

MARVEL®

© 1988 MARVEL ENT.
GROUP, INC.



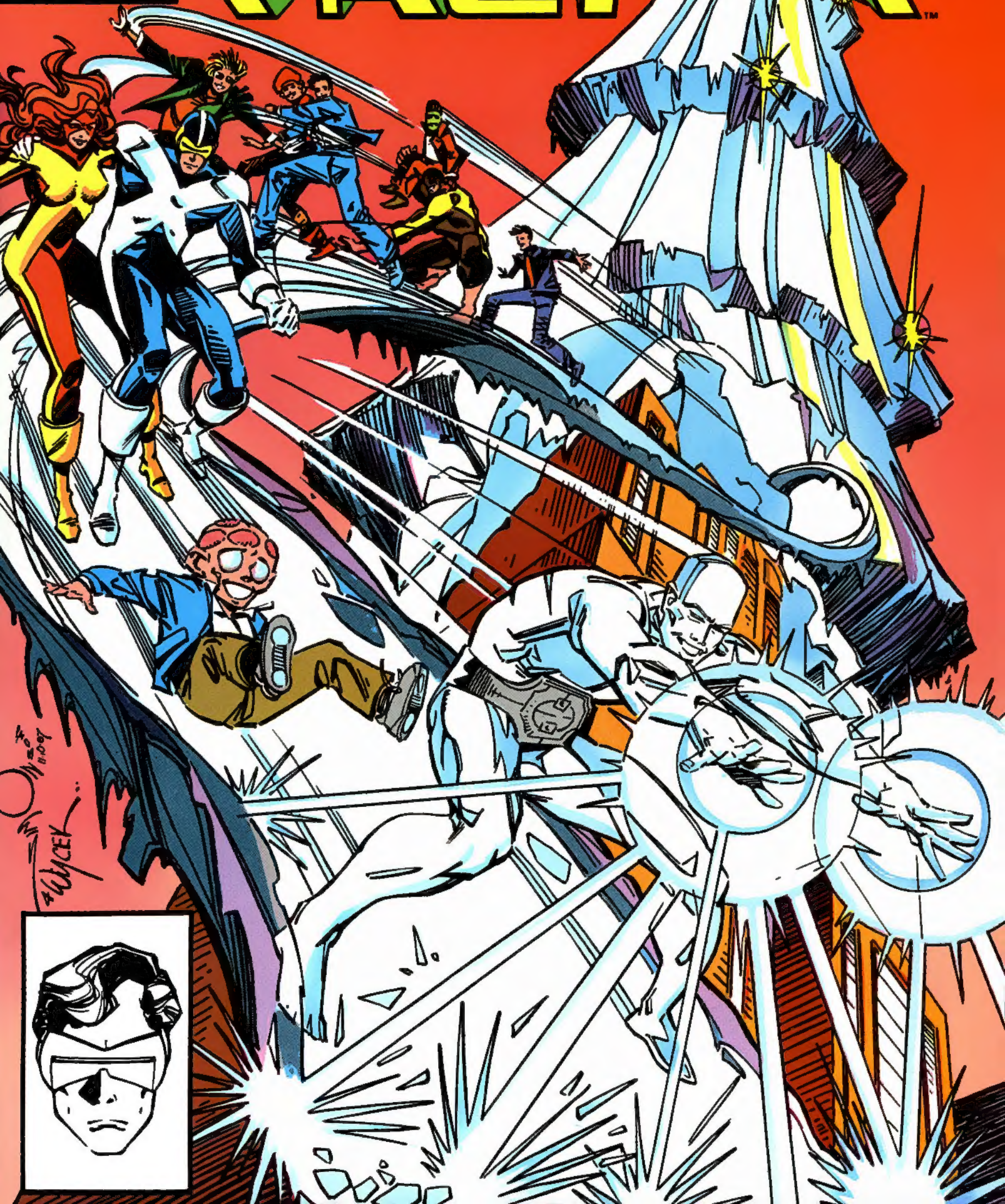
TM

75¢ US
95¢ CAN
27
APR
UK 40p

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



X-Factor™

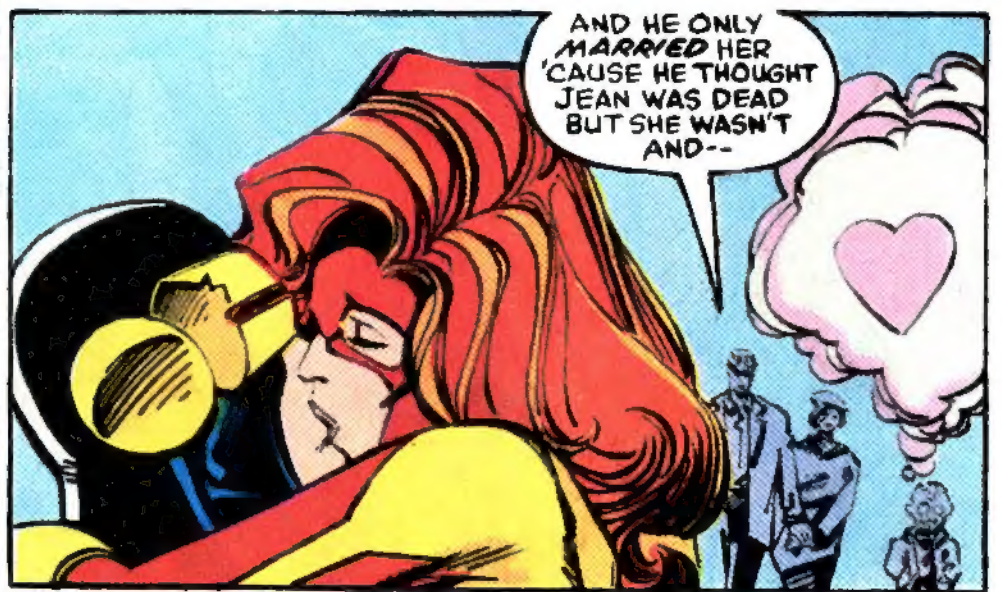
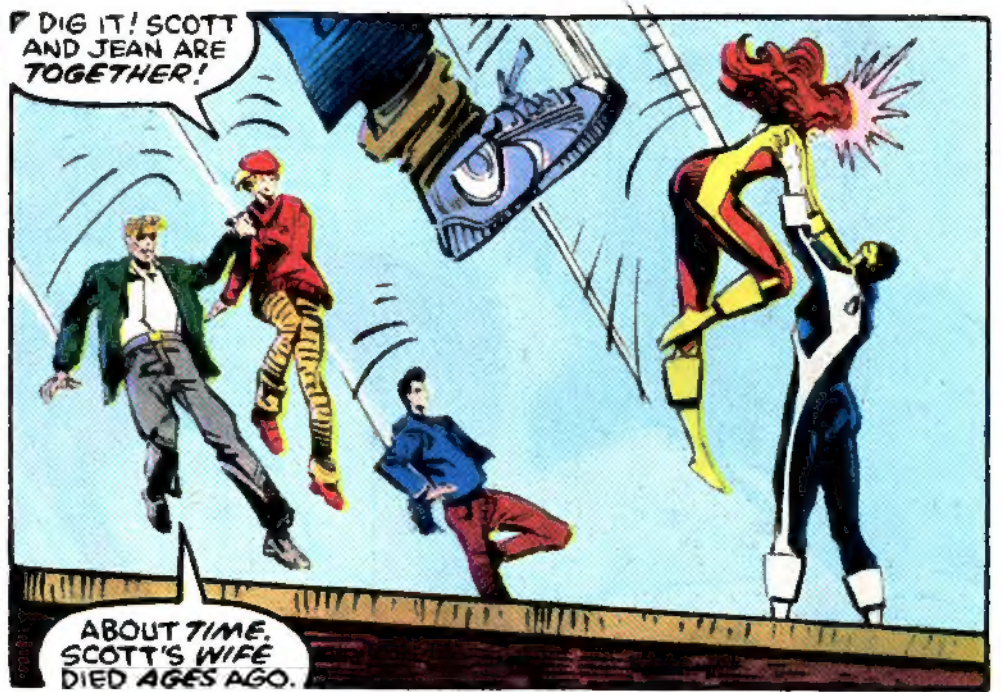


GIFTS!



LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER WALTER SIMONSON PENCILER BOB WIACEK INKER JOE ROSEN LETTERER PETRA SCOTSE COLORIST BOB HARRAS EDITOR TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

X-FACTOR Vol. 1, No. 27, April, 1988. Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY, James E. Garton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices. Published monthly. Copyright © 1988 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price 75c per copy in the U.S. and 95c in Canada. Subscription rate \$9.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, \$11.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. X-FACTOR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.



SO, YOUNG... UH... MAN, WHAT EXACTLY IS A MUTANT?

A MUTANT IS A PERSON BORN WITH AN ALTERED *GENETIC STRUCTURE* THAT GIVES HIM... UNUSUAL ABILITIES.

Good Rusty, keep going!

YOU KIDS MISSED X-FACTOR'S FIGHT WITH APOCALYPSE?

YESSIR. WE WERE STUCK IN VIRGINIA. MARVEL GIRL TOLD SOME... FRIENDS ON MANHATTAN'S POLICE FORCE...

...AND THEY SENT FOR US!

YOU SAID SPECIAL ABILITIES...?

WELL... I CAN MAKE THINGS BURST INTO FLAME... LIKE THIS!

AND I HAVE A... SORT OF FORCE SHIELD! DANGEROUS STUFF JUST SKIDS OFF OF ME!

ARTIE TALKS WITH PICTURES, SEE, HE'S WISHING EVERYBODY HAPPY CHRISTMAS...

...AND I SHAKE THINGS UP...

SNAP!

...OR DOWN. DEPENDING.

MY NAME IS BOOM-BOOM ...AND I MAKE THESE ADORABLE LITTLE ENERGY BALLS--SEE?

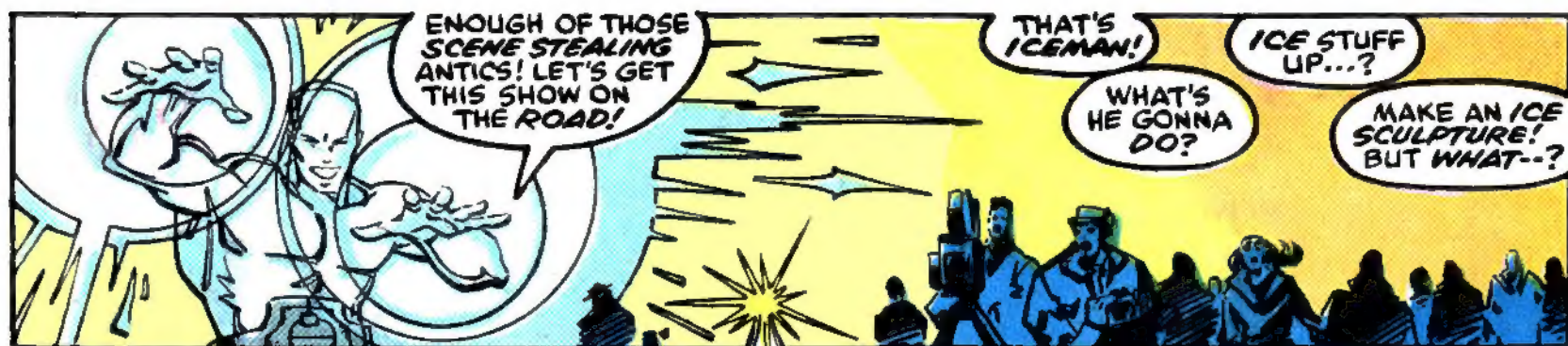
ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE...

...3
...2...

PUPP!

NO! NO TIME BOMBS!

AND LEECH, HERE, IS A ROTTEN, POWER-CANCELLING LITTLE KILL JOY!



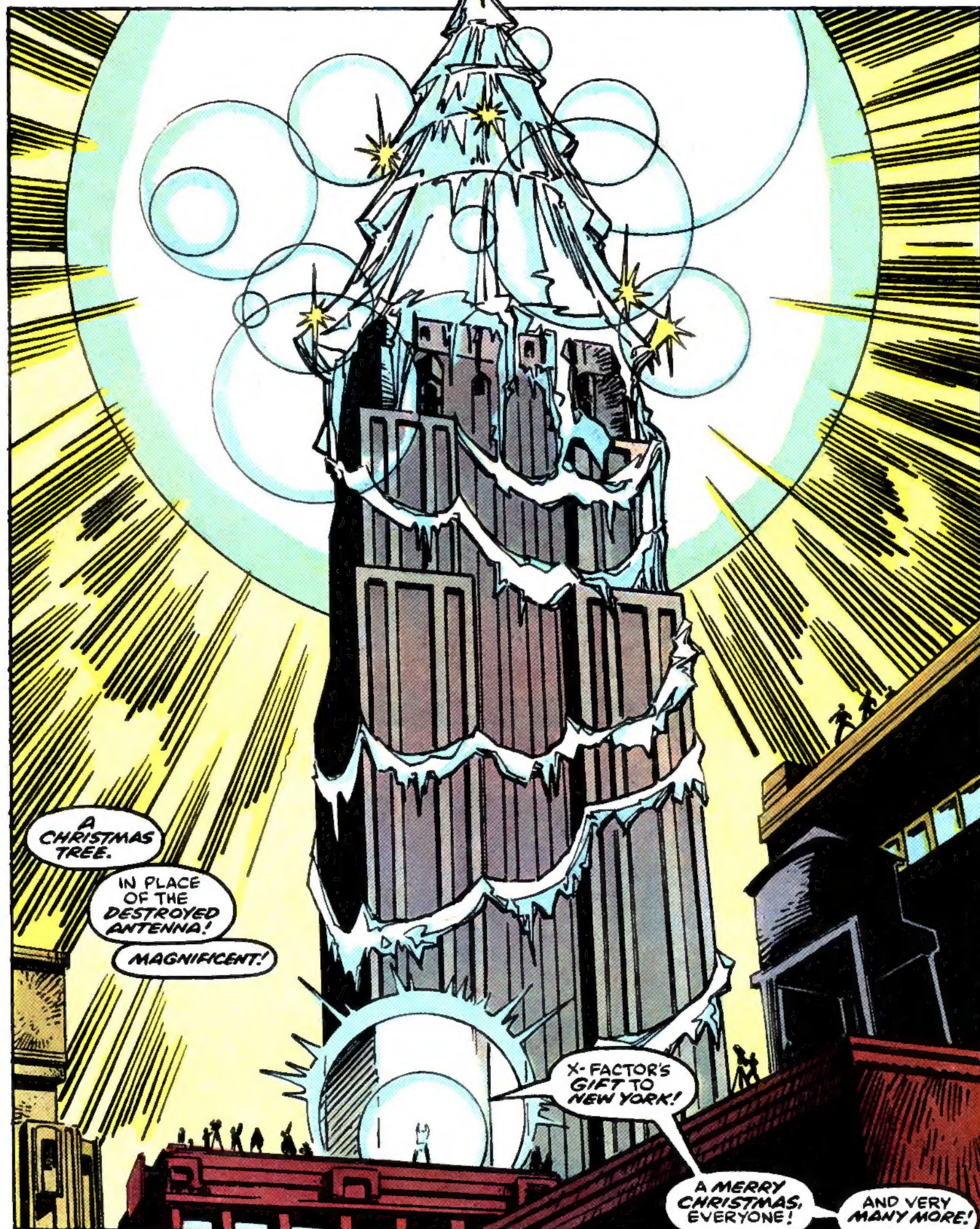
ENOUGH OF THOSE
SCENE STEALING
ANTICS! LET'S GET
THIS SHOW ON
THE ROAD!

THAT'S
ICEMAN!

ICE STUFF
UP...?

WHAT'S
HE GONNA
DO?

MAKE AN ICE
SCULPTURE!
BUT WHAT--?



A
CHRISTMAS
TREE.

IN PLACE
OF THE
DESTROYED
ANTENNA!

MAGNIFICENT!

X-FACTOR'S
GIFT TO
NEW YORK!

A MERRY
CHRISTMAS,
EVERYONE!

AND VERY
MANY MORE!



WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THE **FAST** WAY DOWN. ANY OF YOU WANT TO JOIN US?

FAST WAY?

HE MEANS **TELEKINETICALLY**.

THINK I'LL PASS!

COUNT ME OUT!

I'LL COME ... IF YOU'LL HAVE ME.

IT'D BE OUR PLEASURE, MISS TRILBY.

IT'S KINDA SCAREY TH' FIRST COUPLA TIMES. WHY'D YA WANNA TRY IT, TRISH?

WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THAT BEING JOSTLED BY DOZENS OF REPORTERS IN A TINY ELEVATOR ISN'T MY IDEA OF A GOOD TIME.

CARRY... PLEASE



YOU BETCHA! CLIMB ABOARD! BUT LET'S KEEP CLEAR A' JEANIE, OKAY, LEECH?



WOULDN'T WANNA MAKE HER DROP US, WOULD WE?

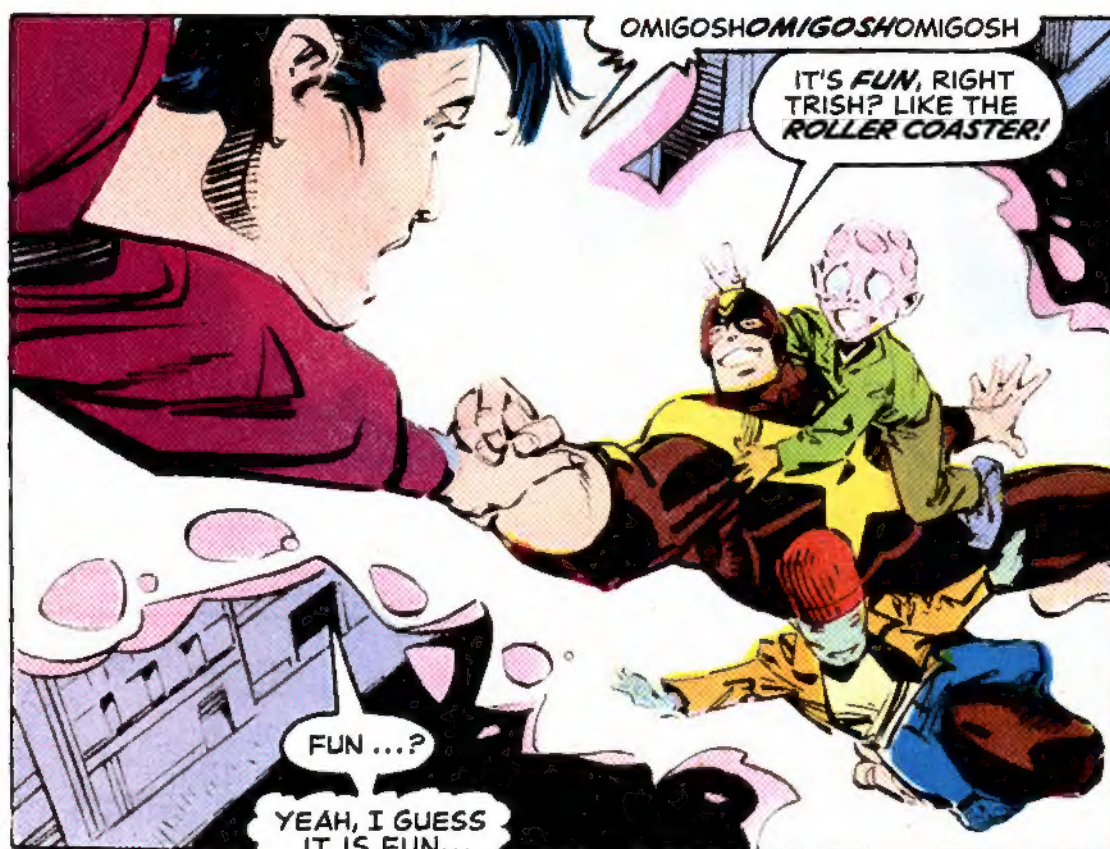
X-FACTOR... MOST OF THE OTHERS, FOR ALL THEIR POWER SEEM... NORMAL...



... BUT THE TWO LITTLE ONES...

C'MON, TRISH... LET'S GO!

WHEEEEE!



OMIGOSHOMIGOSHOMIGOSH

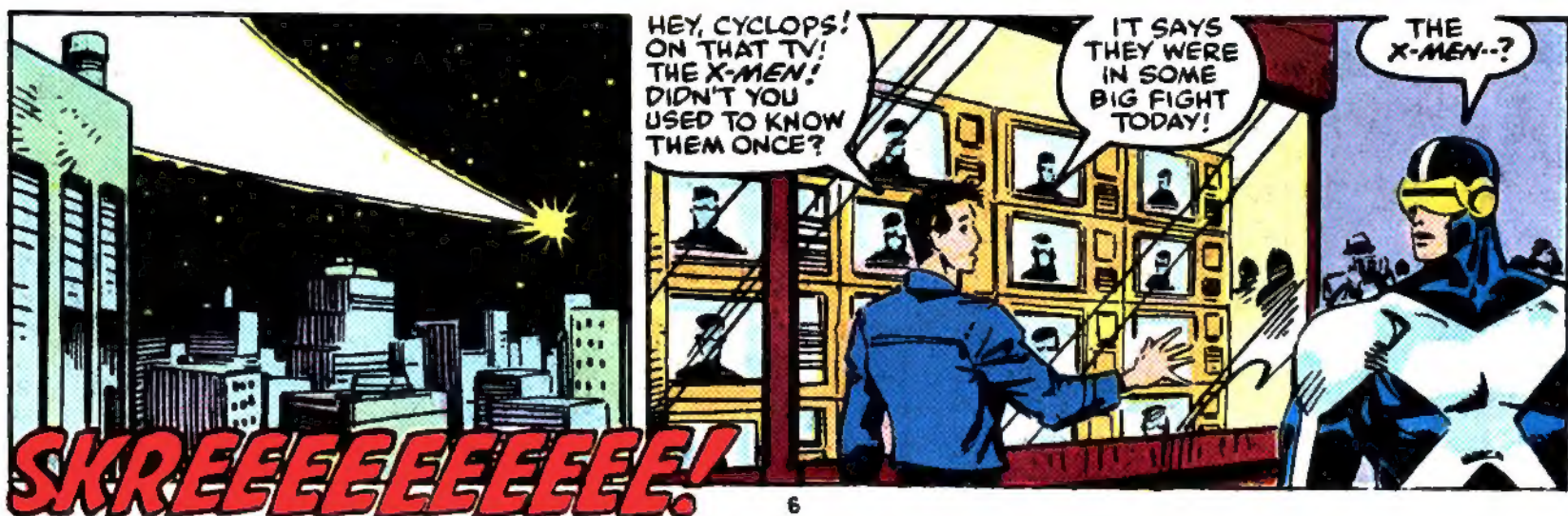
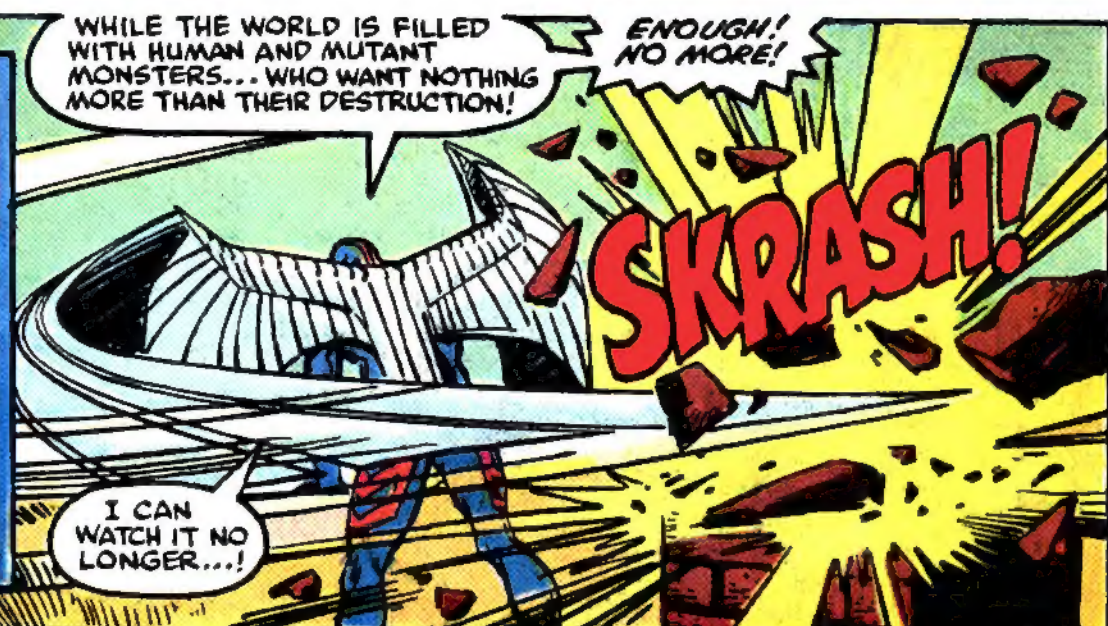
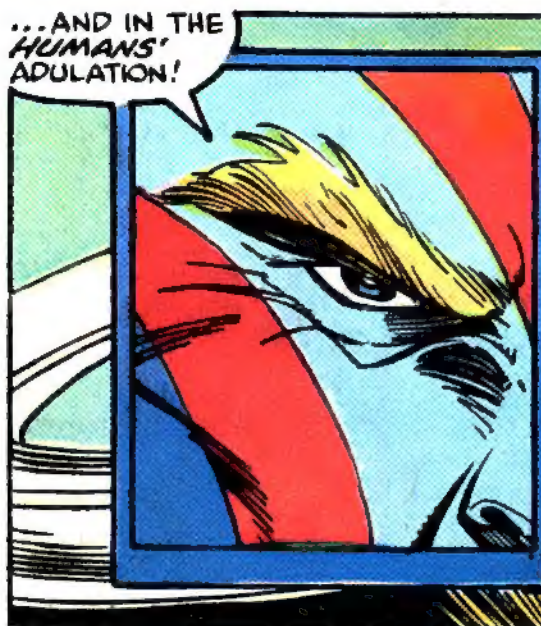
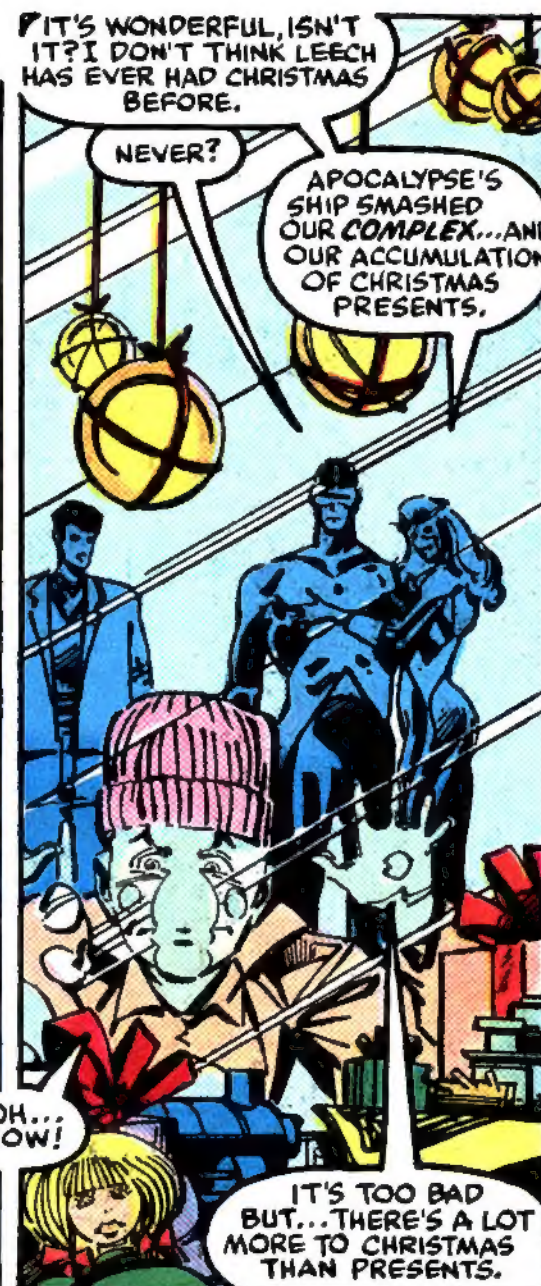
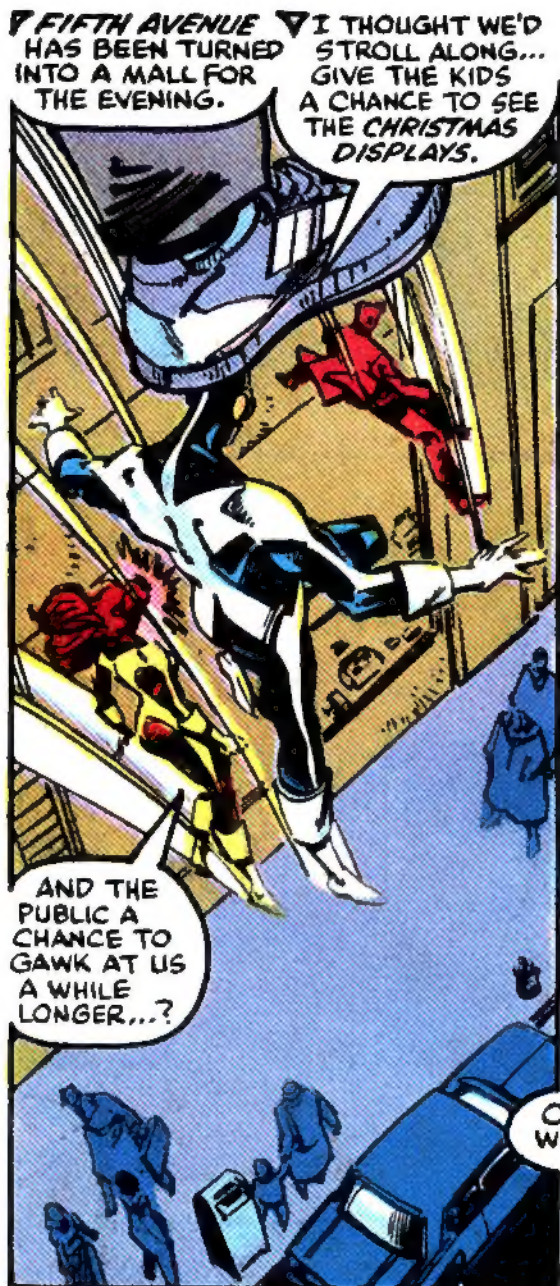
IT'S FUN, RIGHT TRISH? LIKE THE ROLLER COASTER!

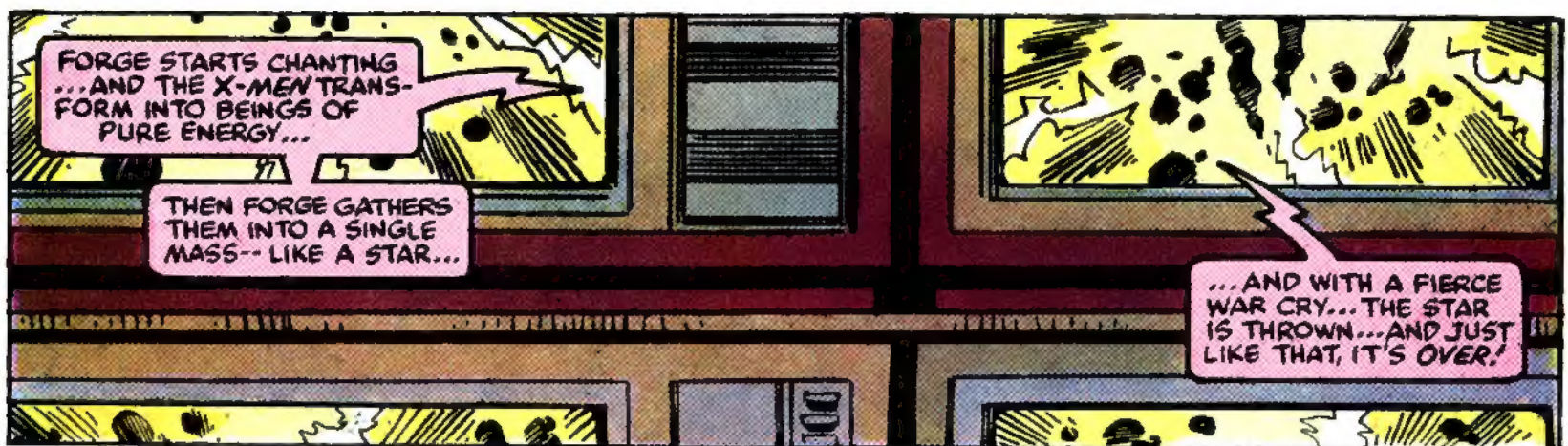
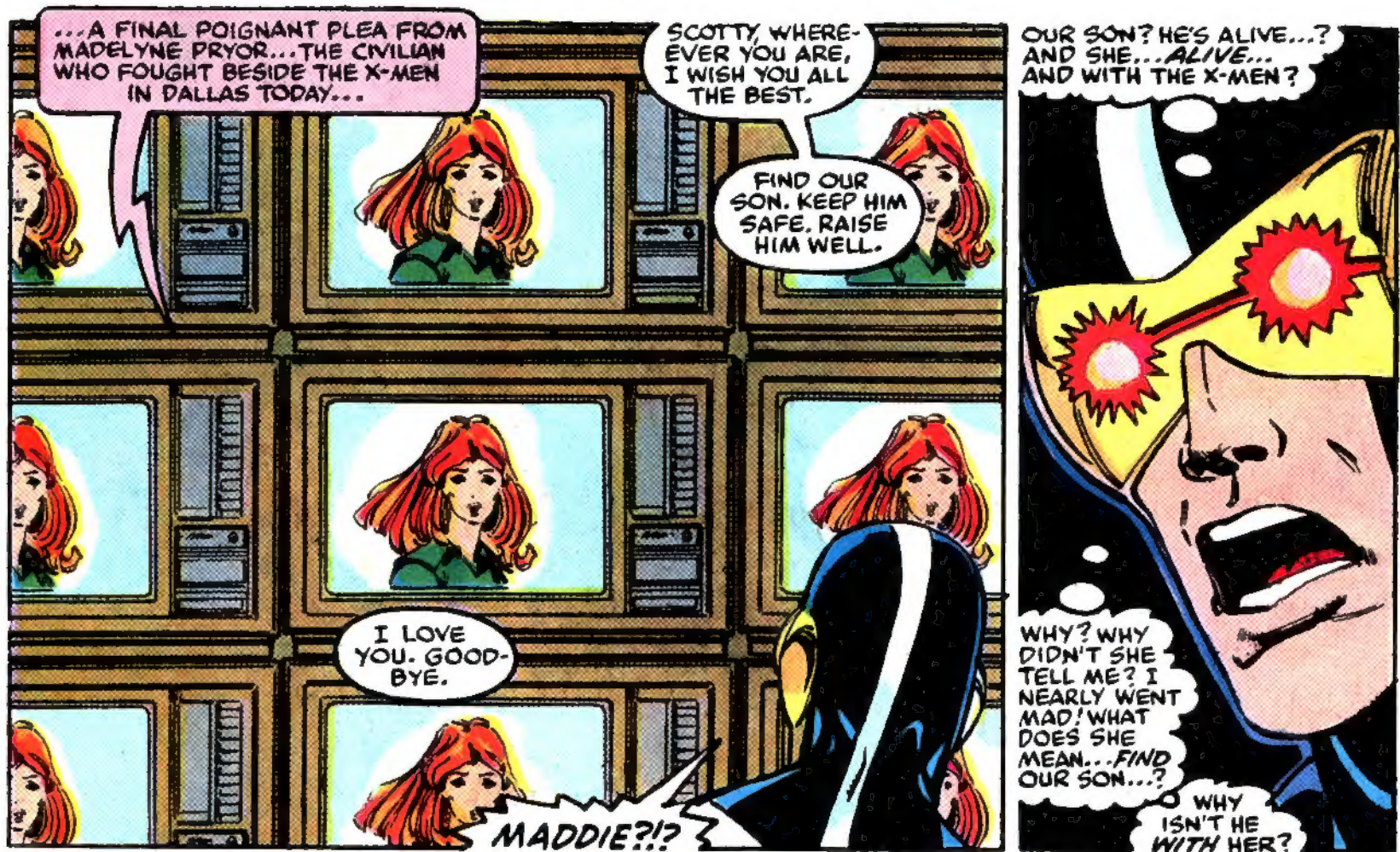
FUN ...?

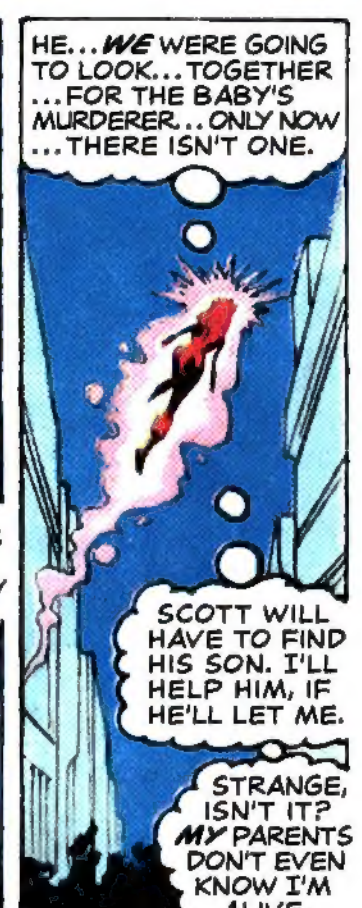
YEAH, I GUESS IT IS FUN...

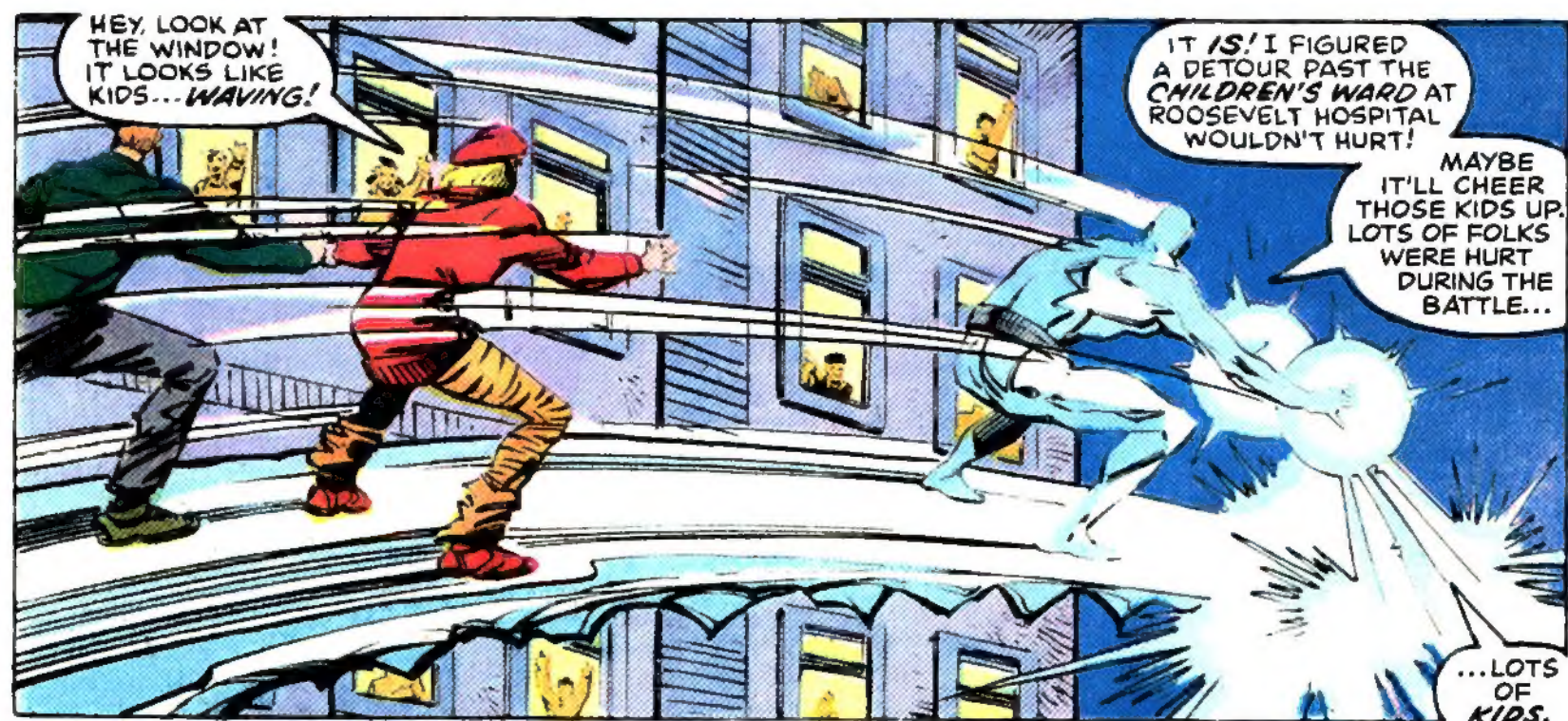
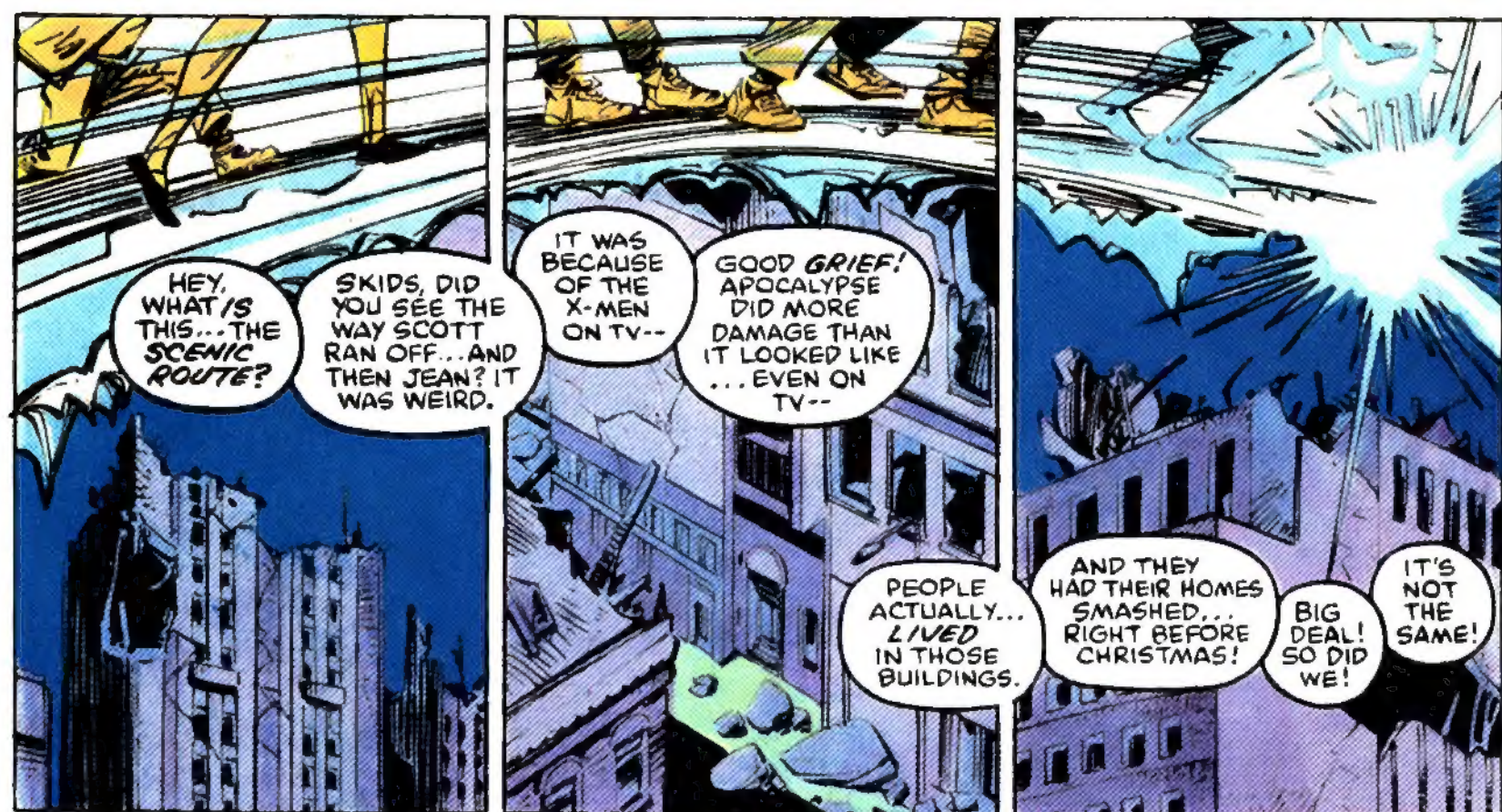
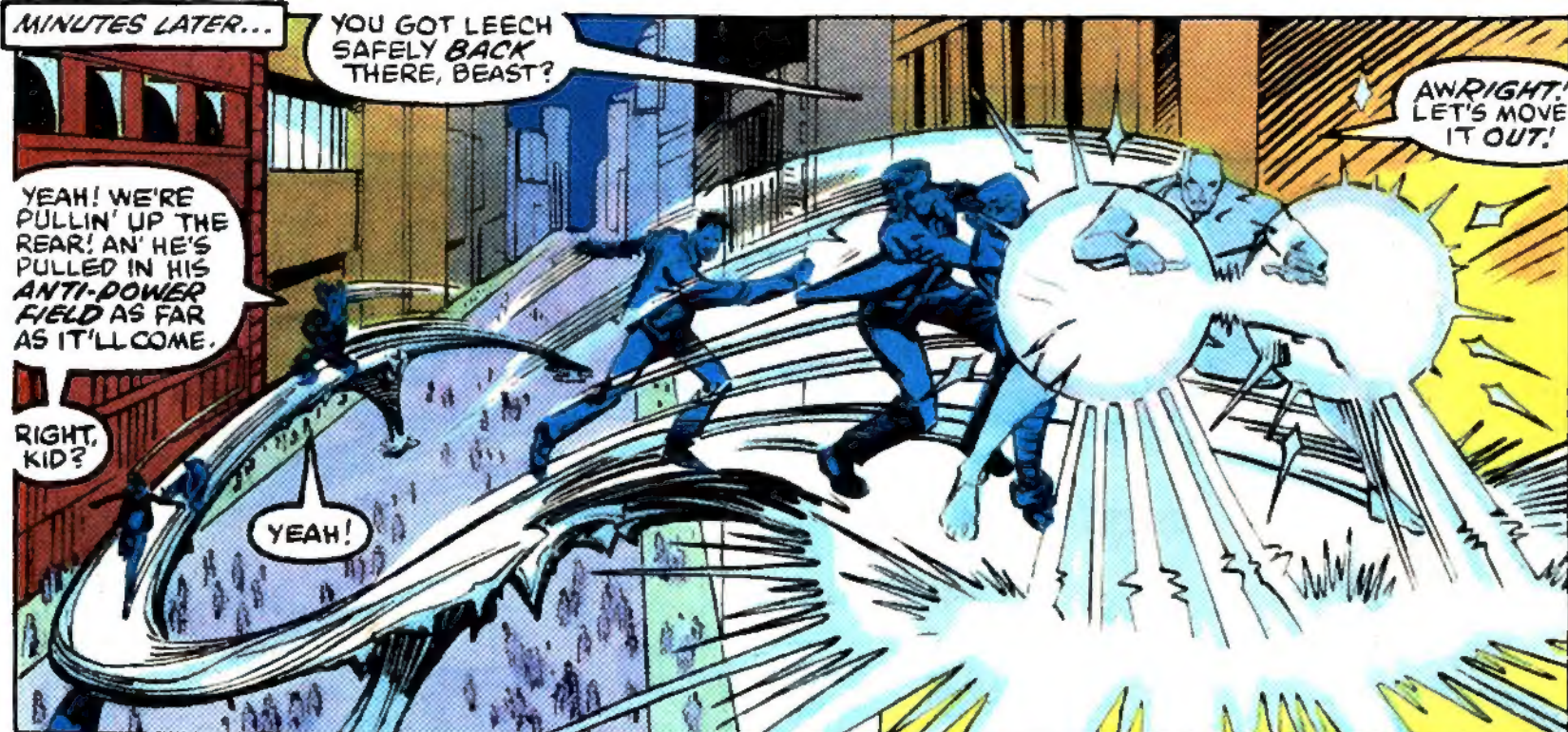


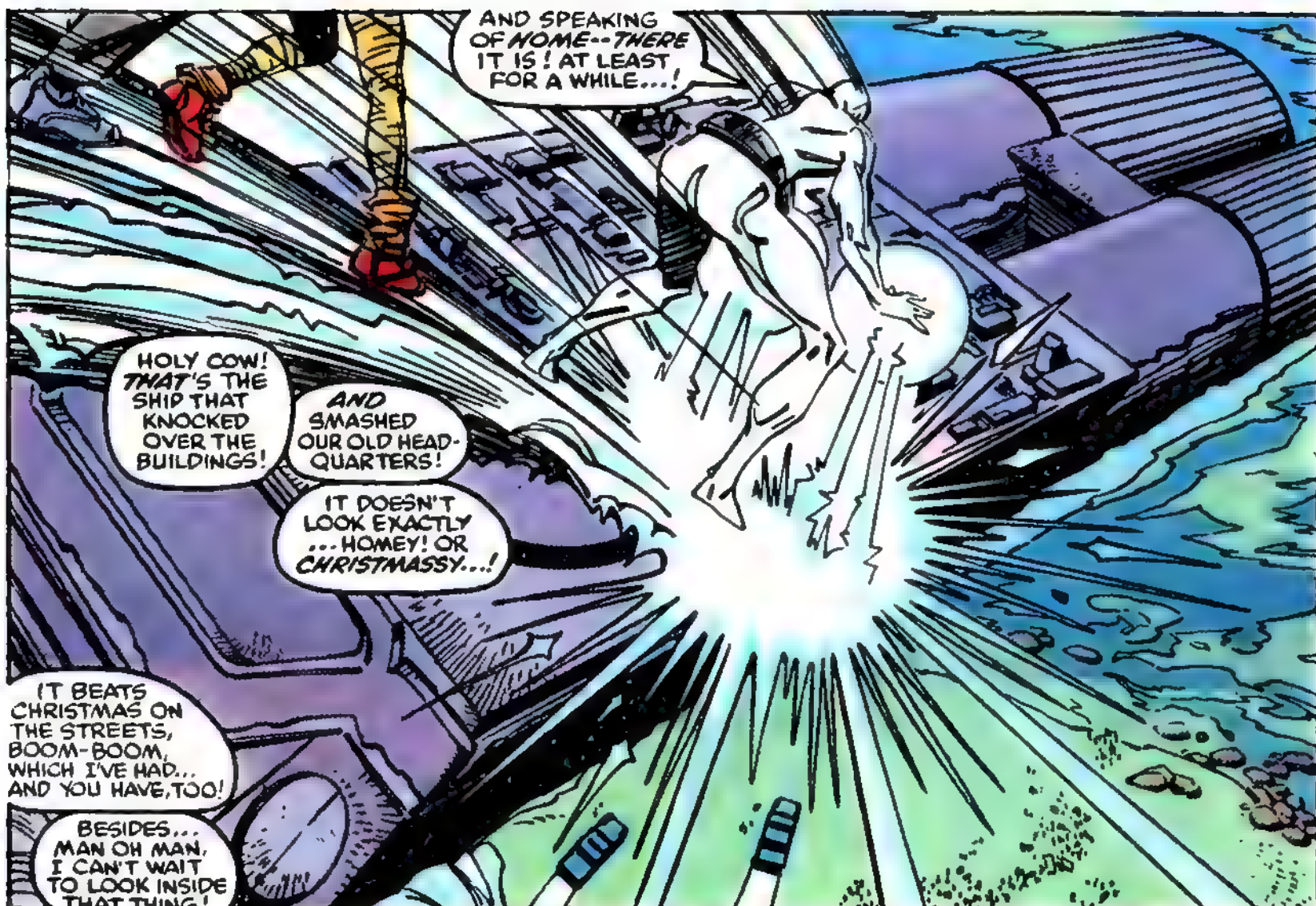
... AND THE LITTLE ONES... THEY'RE REALLY JUST KIDS, AFTER ALL!











AND SPEAKING OF HOME--THERE IT IS! AT LEAST FOR A WHILE...!

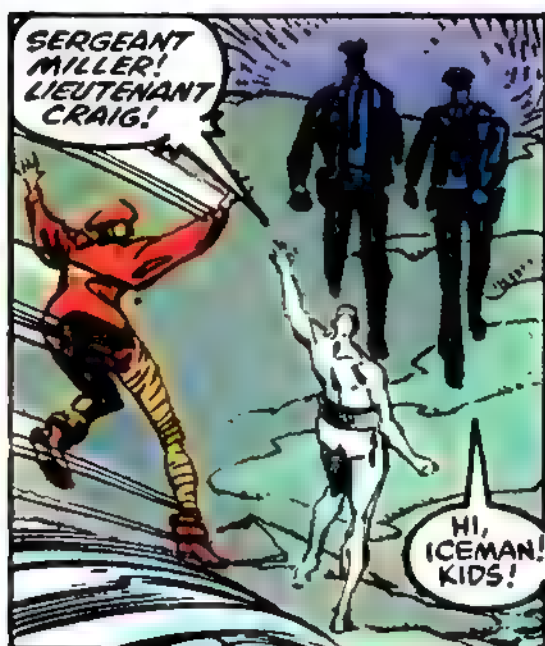
HOLY COW! THAT'S THE SHIP THAT KNOCKED OVER THE BUILDINGS!

AND SMASHED OUR OLD HEAD-QUARTERS!

IT DOESN'T LOOK EXACTLY ... HOMEY! OR CHRISTMASSY...!

IT BEATS CHRISTMAS ON THE STREETS, BOOM-BOOM, WHICH I'VE HAD... AND YOU HAVE, TOO!

BESIDES... MAN OH MAN, I CAN'T WAIT TO LOOK INSIDE THAT THING!



SERGEANT MILLER! LIEUTENANT CRAIG!

HI, ICEMAN! KIDS!



THE DEPARTMENT JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE AN EXTRA CHRISTMAS TREE...THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE A USE FOR IT!

AND WHAT'S A TREE WITHOUT ORNAMENTS, EH?

THE WIFE MADE ME A BOX FULL. BUYS 'EM EVERY YEAR ON SALE. GOT WAY TOO MANY FOR OUR TREE.

BE DOIN' US A FAVOR IF YOU'D TAKE 'EM OFF OUR HANDS.

WEIRD, ISN'T IT! THAT SHIP LOOKS LESS... DAMAGED THAN IT DID EARLIER TODAY.

YEAH, IT DOES! MUST BE THE LIGHT.

OH... CRUSH! A TREE! A REAL TREE!



HEY, COP! THERE WERE PEOPLE HURT BY MUTIES. HUMAN KIDS ARE IN THE HOSPITAL.

YOU COPS'D BE BETTER OFF WORRYIN' 'BOUT YOUR OWN KIND.



I'D HOPED THEIR KIND WOULD JUST DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY...WITH HOW X-FACTOR SAVED THE CITY AN' ALL.

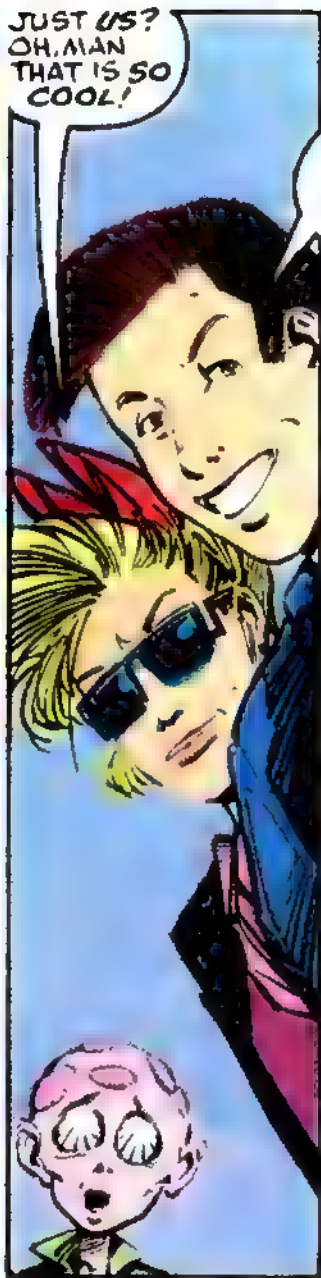
REAL CHRISTMAS SPIRIT, HUH?

I GUESS YOU CAN'T EXPECT EVERYBODY TO CHANGE OVERNIGHT ...BUT IT SURE WOULD BE GREAT IF THEY COULD.



OH WOW!
AREN'T
THOSE
POLICE-
MEN
COMING
IN?

THEY CAN'T.
THERE'S A
FORCE-
BARRIER
THAT ONLY
LETS MU-
TANTS
ENTER THE
SHIP!



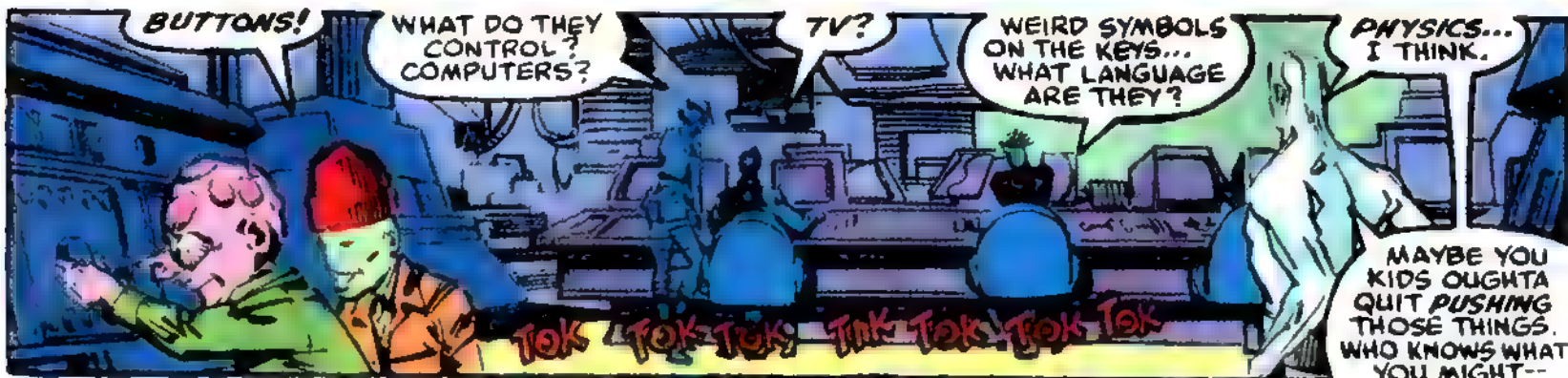
JUST US?
OH, MAN
THAT IS SO
COOL!



THIS IS
TREACHEROUS!
LIKE SOMETHING
OUT OF A STAR
WARS MOVIE.

MAN, THAT
MUSTA BEEN
SOME FIGHT!

I WISH
I'D BEEN IN
IT! BOOM! BOOM!
INSTANT
SMITHEREENS!



BUTTONS!

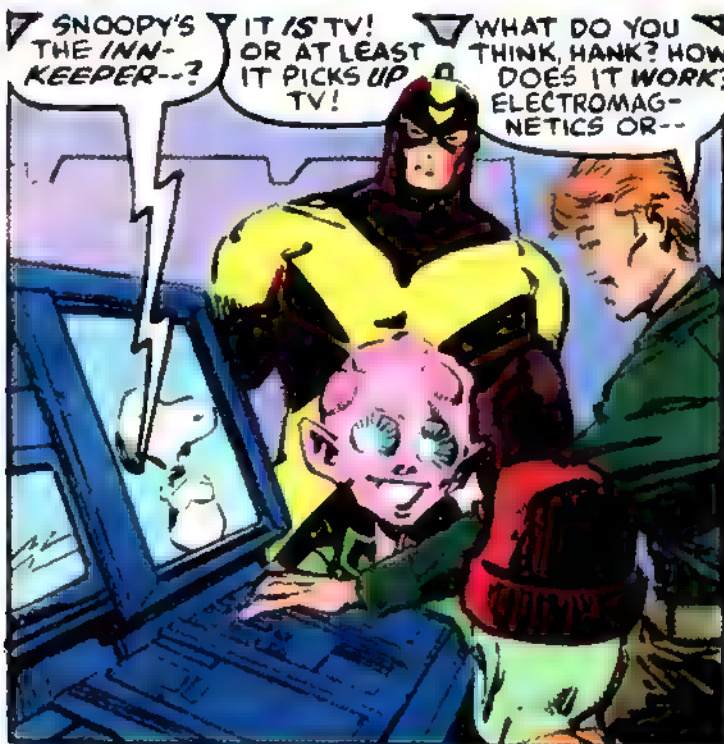
WHAT DO THEY
CONTROL?
COMPUTERS?

TV?

WEIRD SYMBOLS
ON THE KEYS...
WHAT LANGUAGE
ARE THEY?

PHYSICS...
I THINK.

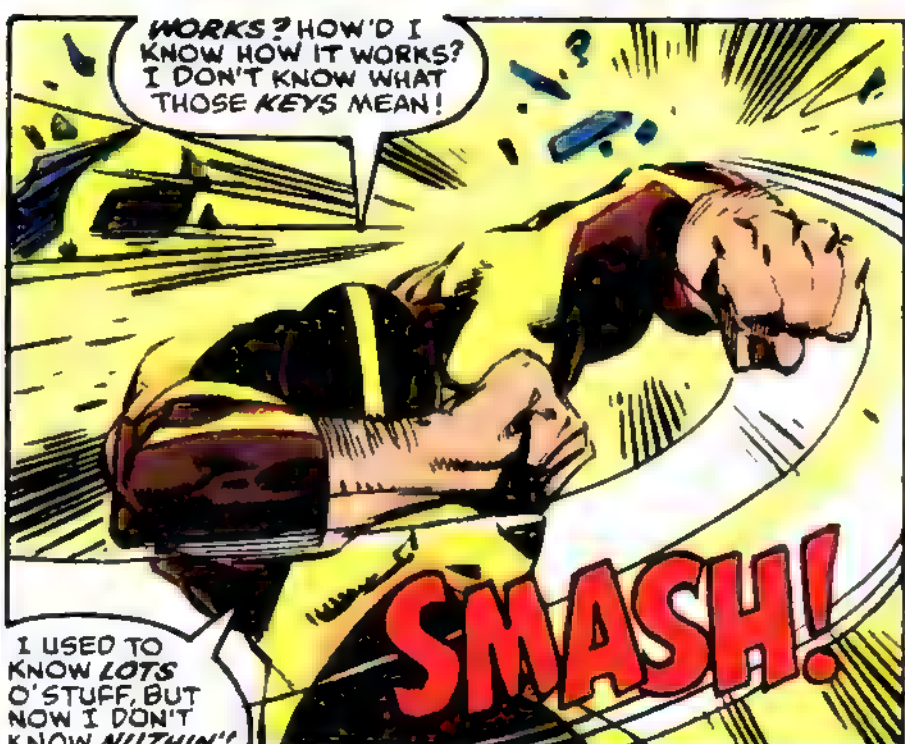
MAYBE YOU
KIDS OUGHTA
QUIT PUSHING
THOSE THINGS.
WHO KNOWS WHAT
YOU MIGHT--



SNOOPY'S
THE INN-
KEEPER--?

IT IS TV!
OR AT LEAST
IT PICKS UP
TV!

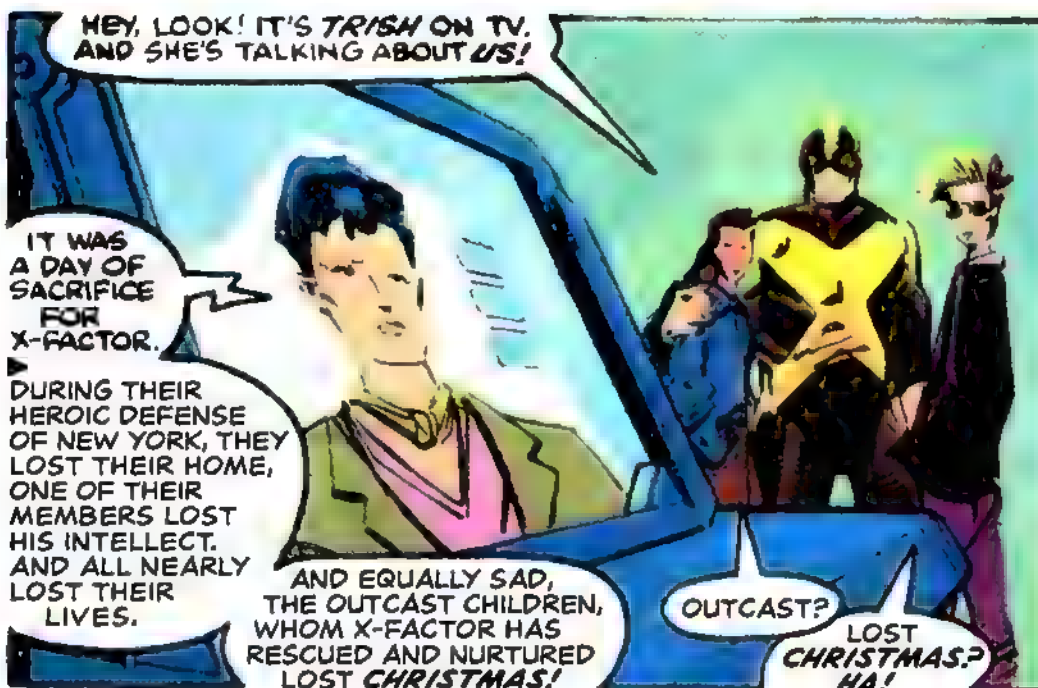
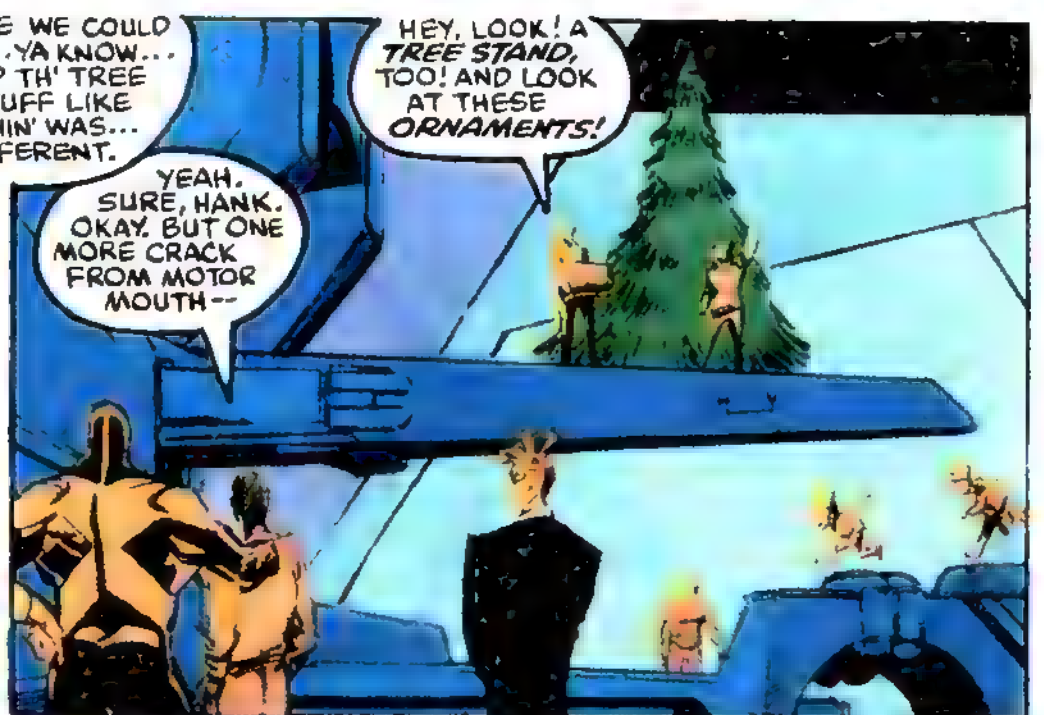
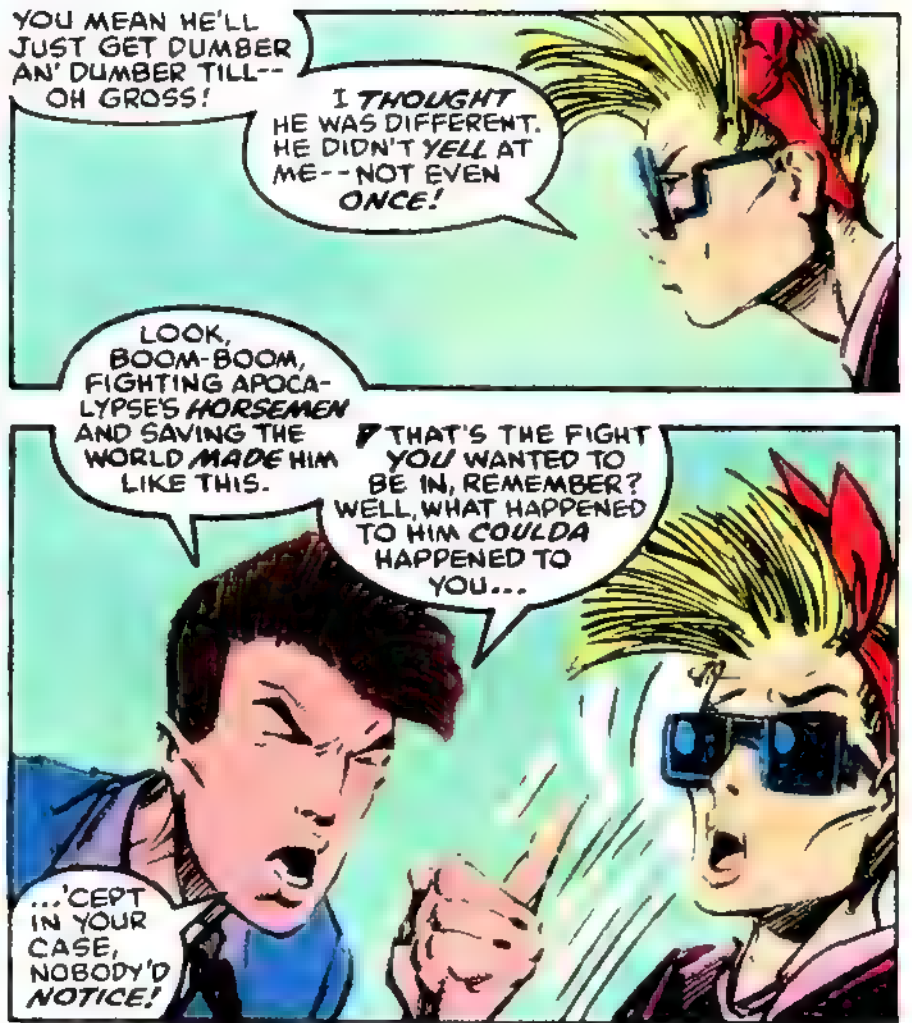
WHAT DO YOU
THINK, HANK? HOW
DOES IT WORK?
ELECTROMAG-
NETICS OR--



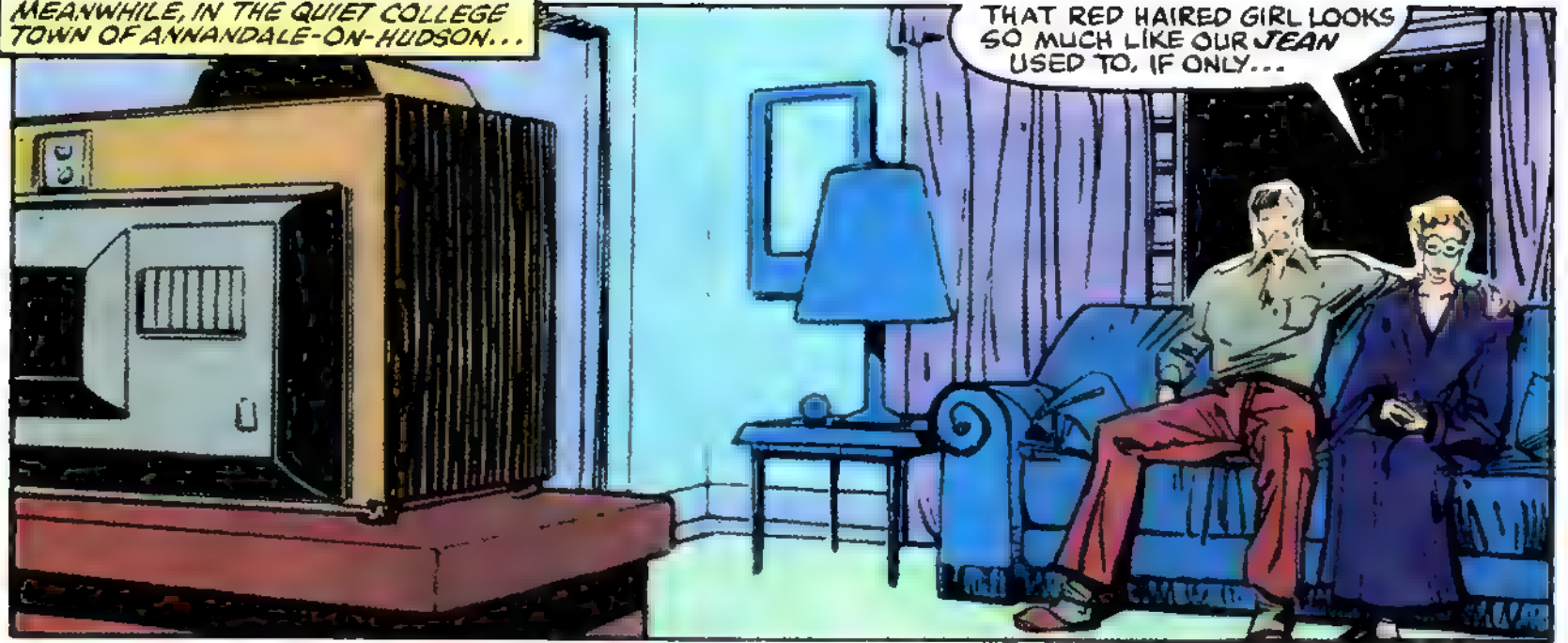
WORKS? HOW'D I
KNOW HOW IT WORKS?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
THOSE KEYS MEAN!

I USED TO
KNOW LOTS
O' STUFF, BUT
NOW I DON'T
KNOW NUTHIN'!

SMASH!

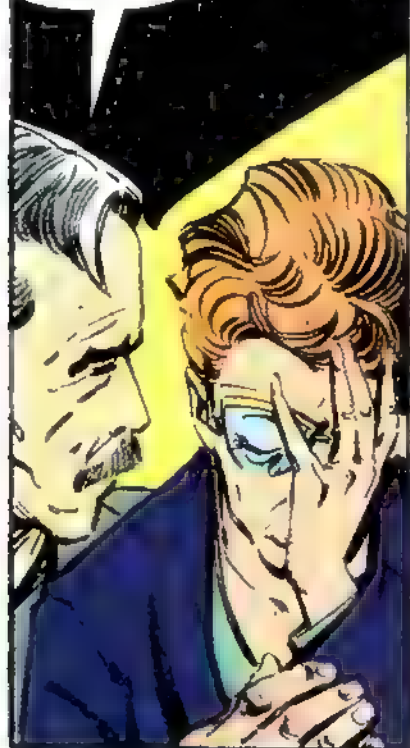


MEANWHILE, IN THE QUIET COLLEGE TOWN OF ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON...

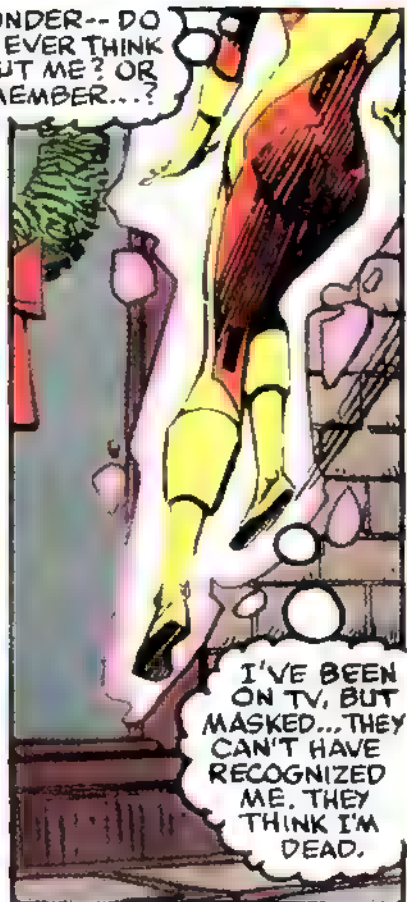


THAT RED HAIR GIRL LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE OUR JEAN USED TO, IF ONLY...

NOW, ELAINE, YOU KNOW IT CAN'T BE. DON'T GET YOURSELF ALL WORKED UP...

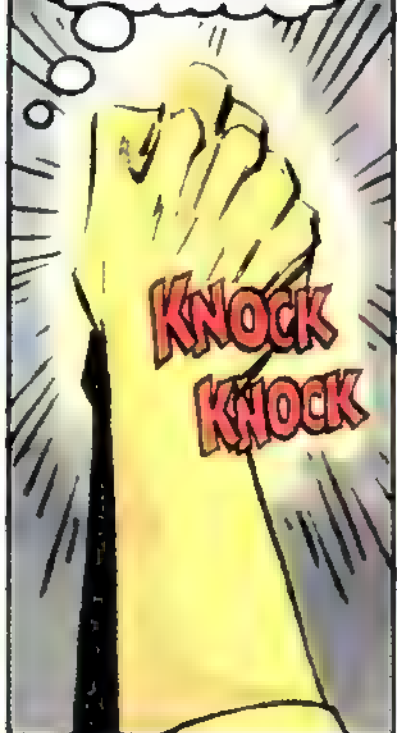


I WONDER-- DO THEY EVER THINK ABOUT ME? OR REMEMBER...?



I'VE BEEN ON TV, BUT MASKED... THEY CAN'T HAVE RECOGNIZED ME. THEY THINK I'M DEAD.

IT'S BEEN TOO LONG. IT MAY NOT BE SAFE. BUT I'VE GOT TO TELL THEM. I HAVE TO LET THEM KNOW I'M ALIVE.

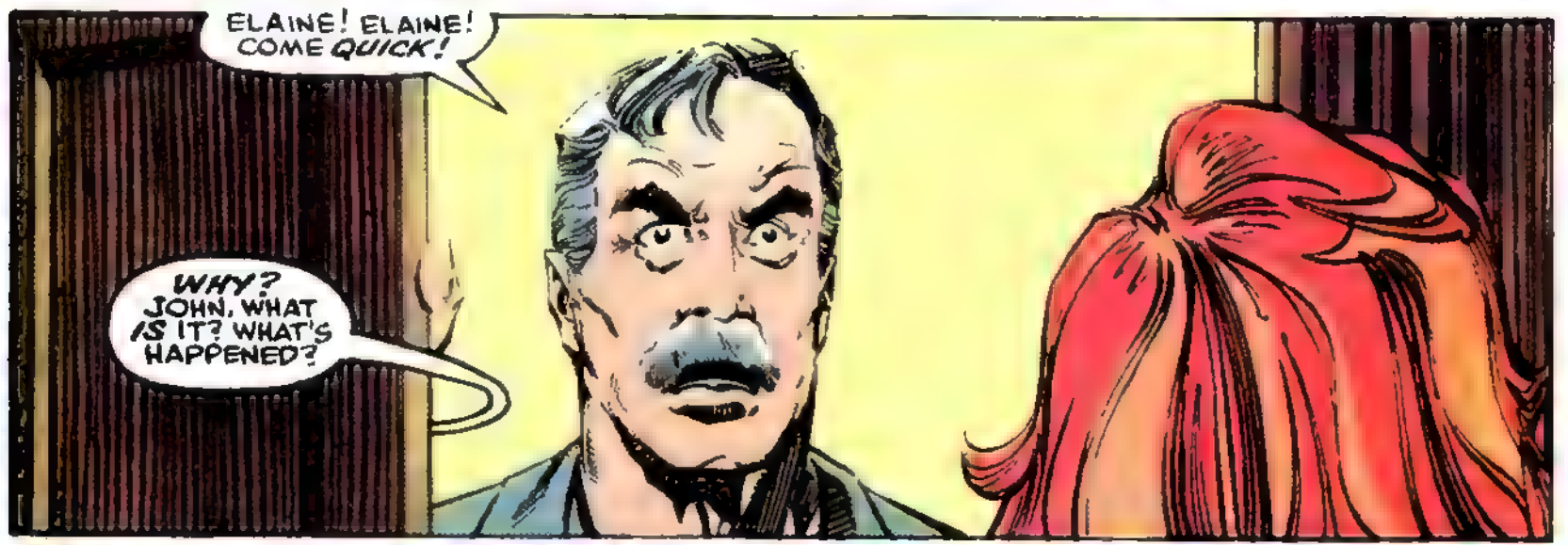


YOU JUST WAIT RIGHT HERE, I'LL GET IT...!



ELAINE! ELAINE! COME QUICK!

WHY? JOHN, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENED?



CLAK

CLICK





DAD...MOM...IT'S ME!
I KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS.
I... I HAVEN'T GOT A
PRESENT FOR YOU OR
ANYTHING, BUT--



ELAINE! SHE...
SHE'S SOLID...
NO GHOST...
REAL!

HAVING
YOU HERE,
ALIVE, IS
GIFT ENOUGH
FOR ANY-
ONE!



HOURS PASS... AND THE MIRACLE OF
JEAN'S SURVIVAL HAS JUST BEGUN TO
REGISTER ON HER DAZED PARENTS WHEN...

MOM...HOW IS
SARA...? I SAW
HER ON TV, GIVING
A PRO-MUTANTS
SPEECH.

WE WERE IN ENGLAND
WHEN IT HAPPENED.
WE FOUND OUT...
TOO LATE

I KNOW HER HOUSE
WAS FIREBOMBED
BUT SHE AND HER
FAMILY ESCAPED...
WHERE IS SHE--?

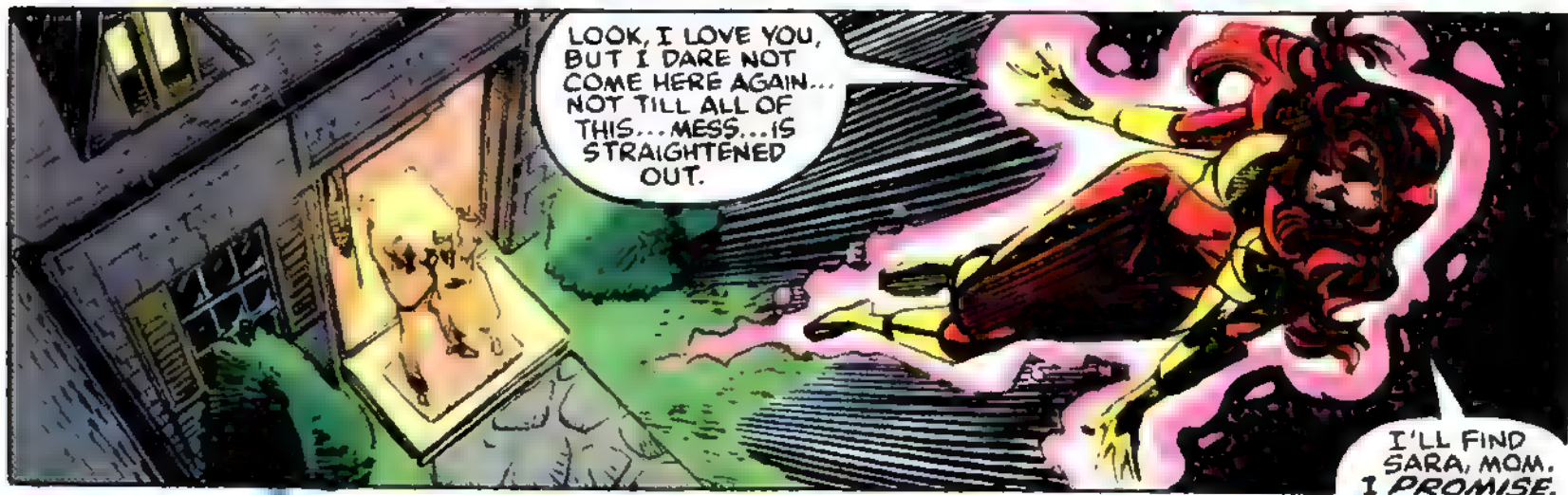
THERE WERE
NO BODIES WE
THOUGHT AT
FIRST THAT
YOUR SISTER
HAD GONE INTO
HIDING...

... BUT SHE HASN'T CONTACTED
US AND NOW...! WELL, THE
POLICE ARE LOOKING. WE
KEEP HOPING--!



EVIL FORCES SUR-
ROUND MUTANTS
THESE DAYS...AND
THEIR FAMILIES.
IT SEEMS.

I'VE EN-
DANGERED
YOU BY COMING
HERE.



LOOK, I LOVE YOU,
BUT I DARE NOT
COME HERE AGAIN...
NOT TILL ALL OF
THIS...MESS...IS
STRAIGHTENED
OUT.

I'LL FIND
SARA, MOM.
I PROMISE.



CLICK

WHIRRR

WHILE IN DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN...



MORE TRUCKS?

MORE PRESENTS!

I WAS MAD AT TRISH FOR CALLING US OUTCASTS...



...BUT IF THIS IS THE PAY-OFF ...MAYBE I'LL RE-EVALUATE!

WILD, ISN'T IT? ALL THOSE NEW YORKERS...PEOPLE WE NEVER EVEN MET...EVEN STORES...

...CARING IF WE HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS. IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF MIRACLE--



HEY-- WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING?

DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO OPEN THIS STUFF TILL CHRISTMAS?

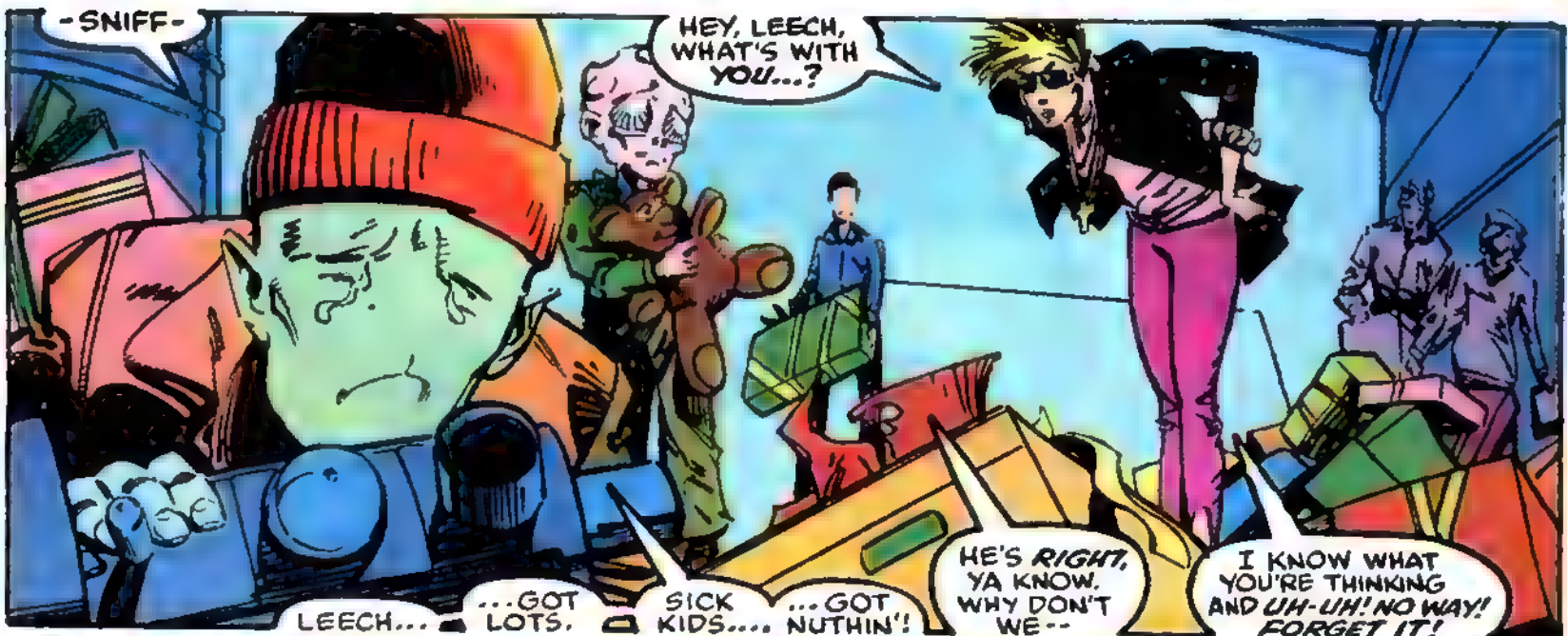
LOOK, THERE'S SO MUCH HERE! WE FIGURED IT WAS OUR DUTY TO KINDA... GET STARTED NOW...

...FORE THE PILE GETS ANY BIGGER... YA KNOW? WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS SWEATER???



TRAIN...

...PRETTY...



-SNIFF-

HEY, LEECH, WHAT'S WITH YOU...?

LEECH...

...GOT LOTS.

SICK KIDS...

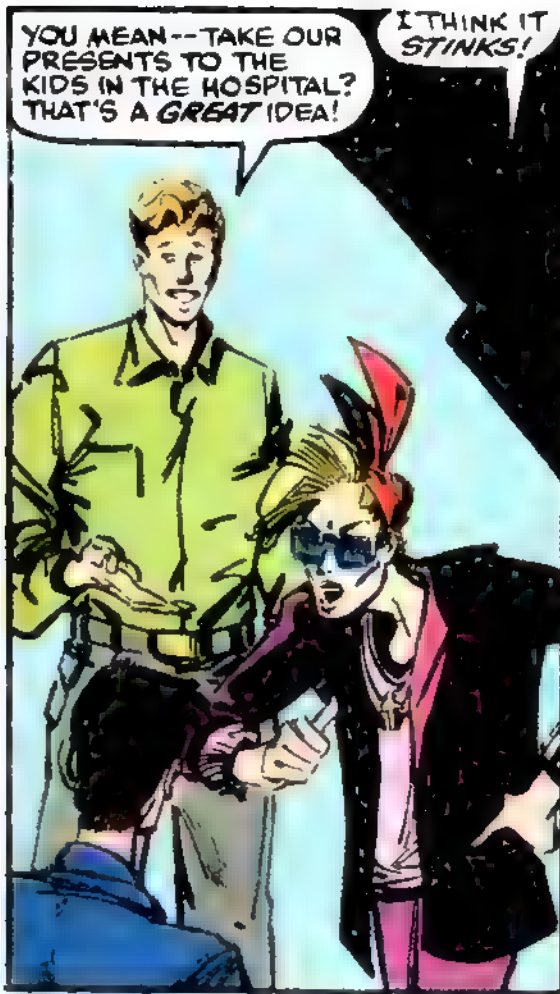
...GOT NUTHIN'!

HE'S RIGHT, YA KNOW. WHY DON'T WE--

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING AND UH-UH! NO WAY! FORGET IT!



BUZZT



YOU MEAN--TAKE OUR PRESENTS TO THE KIDS IN THE HOSPITAL? THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!

I THINK IT STINKS!

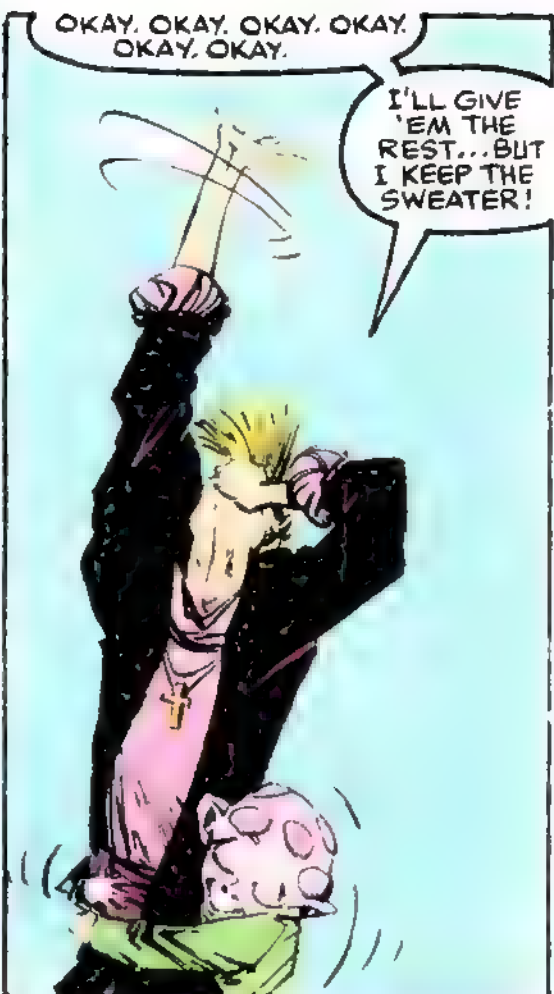


KIDS IN THAT HOSPITAL LOST HOMES. EVEN PARENTS...

...AND WE'RE SAFE AND HAVE EACH OTHER AND ALL THIS, TOO!

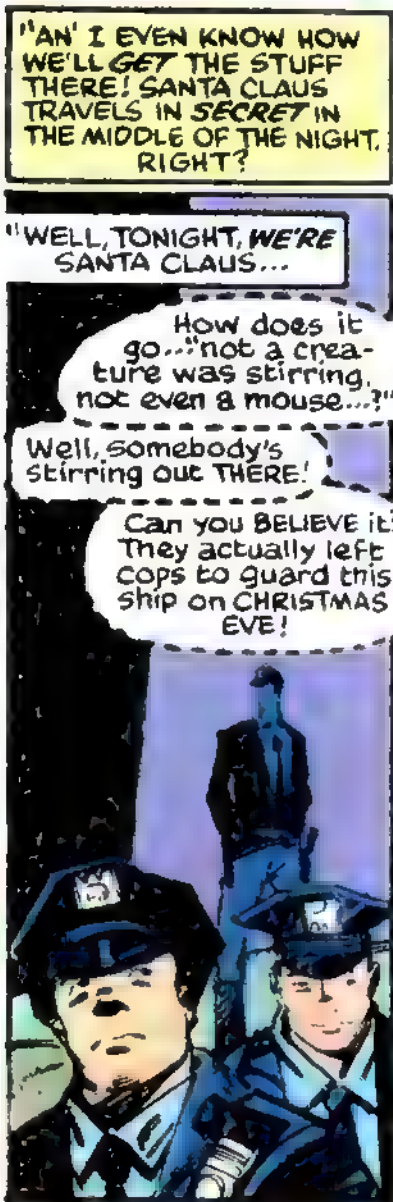
NO. I'M NOT GIVING MY STUFF TO SOME KIDS I NEVER MET!

THE PEOPLE WHO GAVE US THIS STUFF NEVER MET US. AW, C'MON, BOOM-BOOM, IT'S CHRISTMAS....!



OKAY. OKAY. OKAY. OKAY. OKAY. OKAY.

I'LL GIVE 'EM THE REST... BUT I KEEP THE SWEATER!



"AN' I EVEN KNOW HOW WE'LL GET THE STUFF THERE! SANTA CLAUS TRAVELS IN SECRET IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. RIGHT?"

"WELL, TONIGHT, WE'RE SANTA CLAUS..."

How does it go...not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse...?"

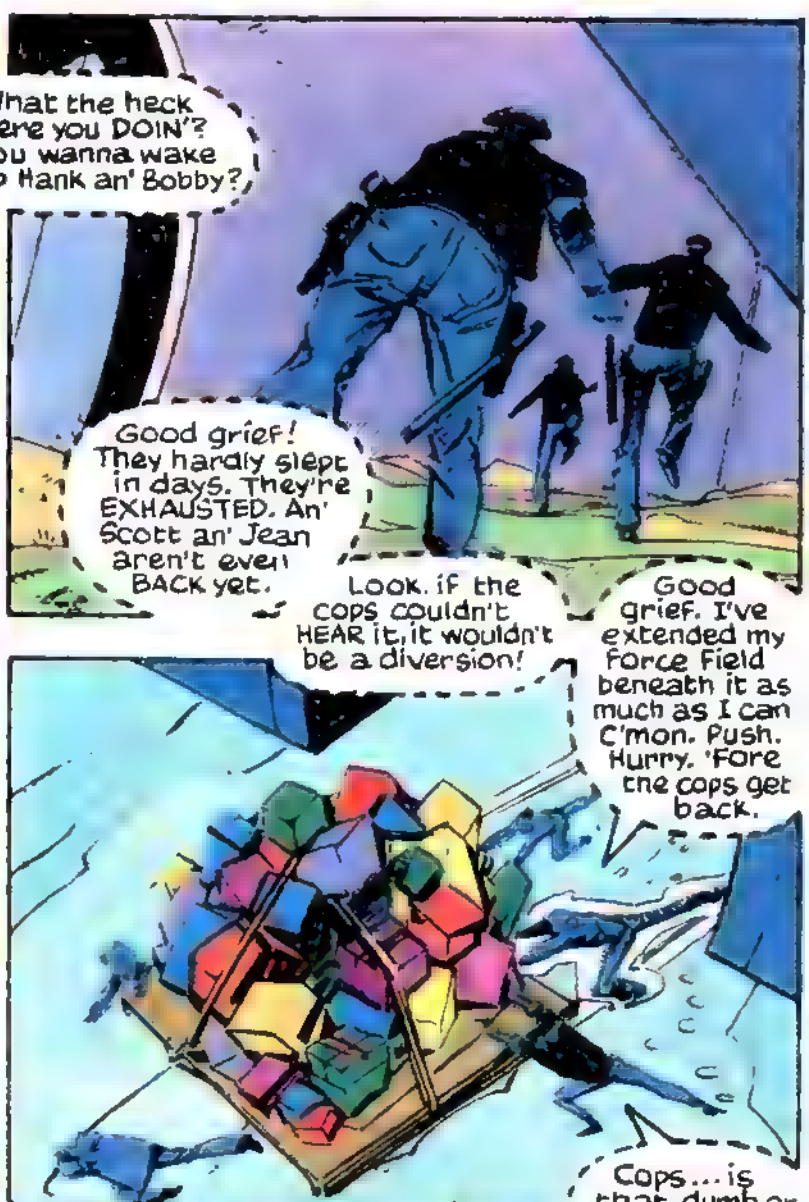
Well, somebody's stirring out THERE!

Can you BELIEVE it? They actually left cops to guard this ship on CHRISTMAS EVE!



Don't worry. I can handle them...3...2...1...

BOOM!



What the heck were you DOIN'? You wanna wake up Hank an' Bobby?

Good grief! They hardly slept in days. They're EXHAUSTED. An' Scott an' Jean aren't even BACK yet.

Look, if the cops couldn't HEAR it, it wouldn't be a diversion!

Good grief. I've extended my Force Field beneath it as much as I can C'mon. Push. Hurry. 'Fore the cops get back.



Cops... is that dumb or WHAT? Do they think the ship's gonna get up an' WALK AWAY?

SNAPP SKIRT

LATER...

IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE. I SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN HERE... WITH THE KIDS.

GLAD I SAW MOM AND DAD. THEY LOOK OLDER. FOR THEM IT'S BEEN YEARS... FOR ME, IT SEEMS LIKE... A FEW MONTHS?

TIME JUST... DISAPPEARED WHILE I LAY IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION AND THE WORLD WENT ON WITHOUT ME...

...CONVINCED I WAS DEAD. BY ALL RIGHTS, I SHOULD'VE BEEN DEAD.

I'D HOPED SCOTT AND I WOULD SPEND CHRISTMAS TOGETHER.

I LOVE HIM SO. I FINALLY HAD HIM... WE HAD EACH OTHER...

...AND NOW HE'S OFF AGAIN, CHASING PHANTOMS. WE'RE ALL POTENTIAL PHANTOMS. WHO'LL BE NEXT--?

THE KIDS? THEY SHOULD BE SLEEPING! THEY SHOULD BE HERE! WHERE ARE THEY?

BOBBY! HANK! THE KIDS-- THEY'RE GONE!

HUH--?

I SAW MY PARENTS TONIGHT. MY SISTER AND HER KIDS ARE MISSING.

AND MADDIE AND SCOTT'S BABY AND... WHAT ABOUT CANDY SOUTHERN? WHERE IS SHE?

AND SCOTT'S GRANDPARENTS... ARE THEY REALLY ON THAT CRUISE OR--?

HOLD ON A SECOND, JEAN. YOU THINK SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THE KIDS...

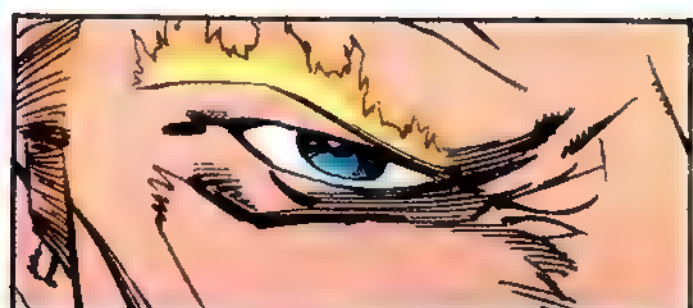
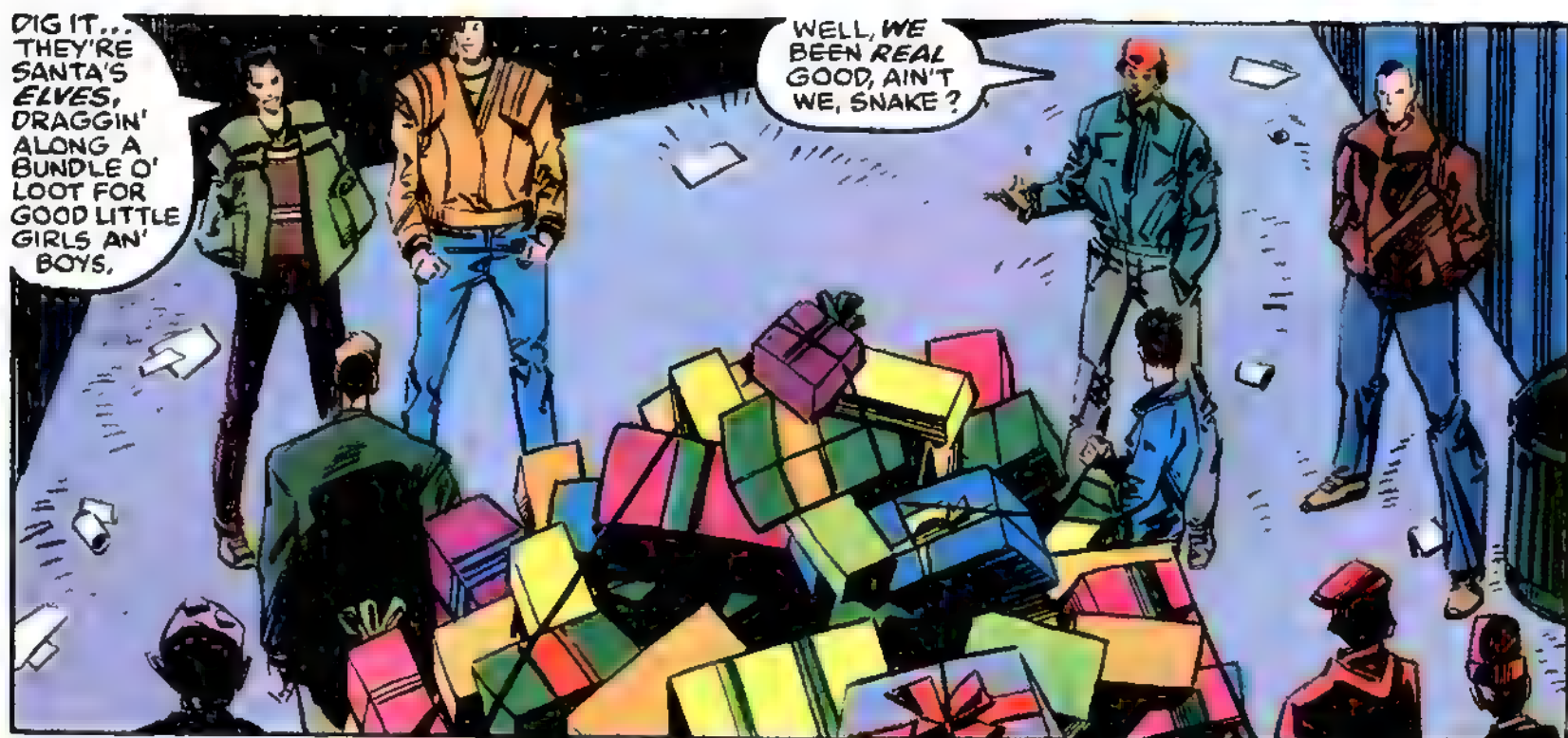
"...THAT THEY'RE IN TROUBLE...?"

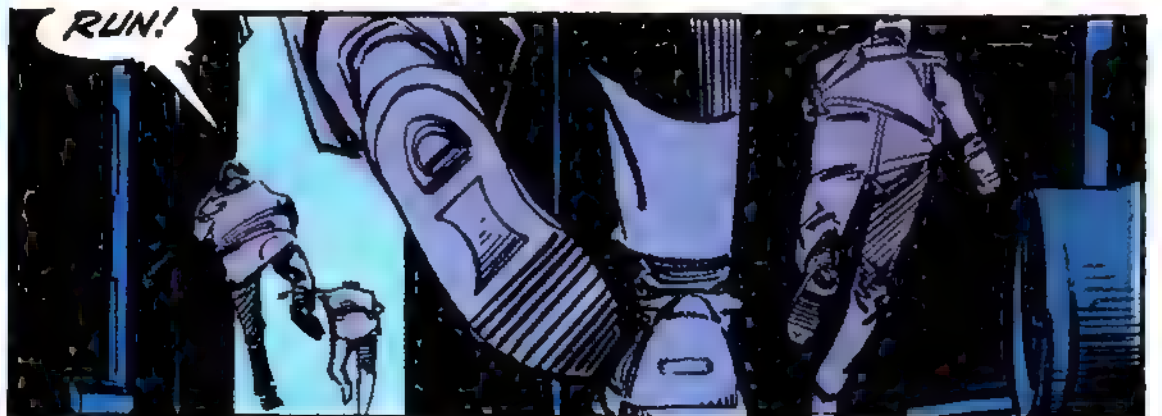
YOU SURE THIS IS THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL?

YOU WANNA GO TO THE HOSPITAL, DUDE, WE CAN GET YOU THERE... FAST AN' EASY!

SKIKT

POPP!







WHAT IN THE WORLD DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING? PEOPLE ARE BEING HURT, DISAPPEARING, WE WERE SCARED STIFF.

WE CAN TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES.

WE HAD IT UNDER CONTROL. MY NEXT MOVE WAS TO MAKE THE GUN CATCH FIRE AND MELT.



AND MAYBE BLOW UP...?

LOOK, WE DIDN'T MEAN TO CAUSE TROUBLE. WE JUST FELT BAD FOR THE KIDS IN THE HOSPITAL.

WE DIDN'T MEAN TO WORRY YOU

YOU WERE SO TIRED, AND WE THOUGHT WE COULD GET BACK BEFORE YOU KNEW WE WERE GONE.

DON'T LOOK AT ME! IT WAS LEECH! HE MADE US DO IT!



MY IDEA!

LEECH...NOT SORRY.



OH...FORGET IT! HOW CAN I BE MAD?

CAN YOU BELIEVE I WAS ACTUALLY FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF EARLIER?

AND HERE, IN MY ARMS, I'VE GOT THE GREATEST GIFTS ANYBODY COULD HAVE! WHAT A CREW YOU ARE! MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE...!

C'MON, LET'S GET THIS STUFF TO THE HOSPITAL...



Shape up Bobby, or I'll DROP you-- I mean it! We're SUPPOSED to be MAD!

MMMPHFTTT!

WE THOUGHT... IT'S CHRISTMAS ...AND...

...WELL, OTHER PEOPLE NEED THIS STUFF. WE DON'T. WE HAVE OUR POWERS, AND WE HAVE EACH OTHER!



THIPP

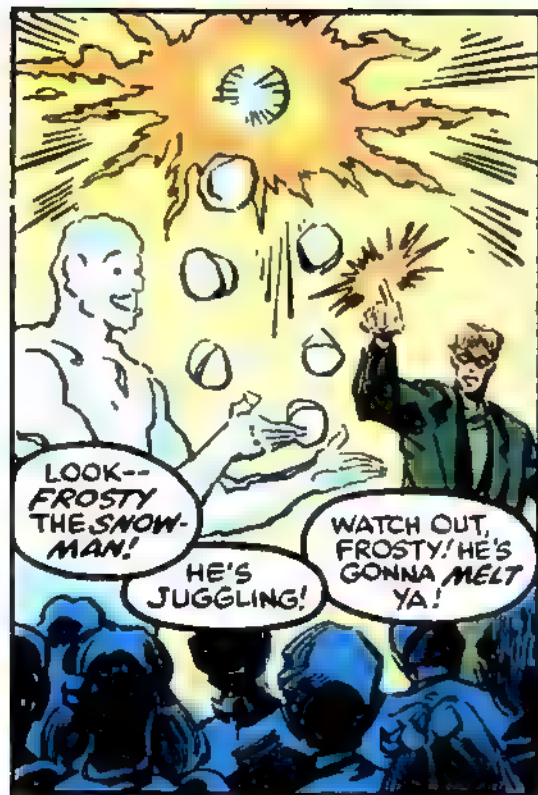
SNAPP

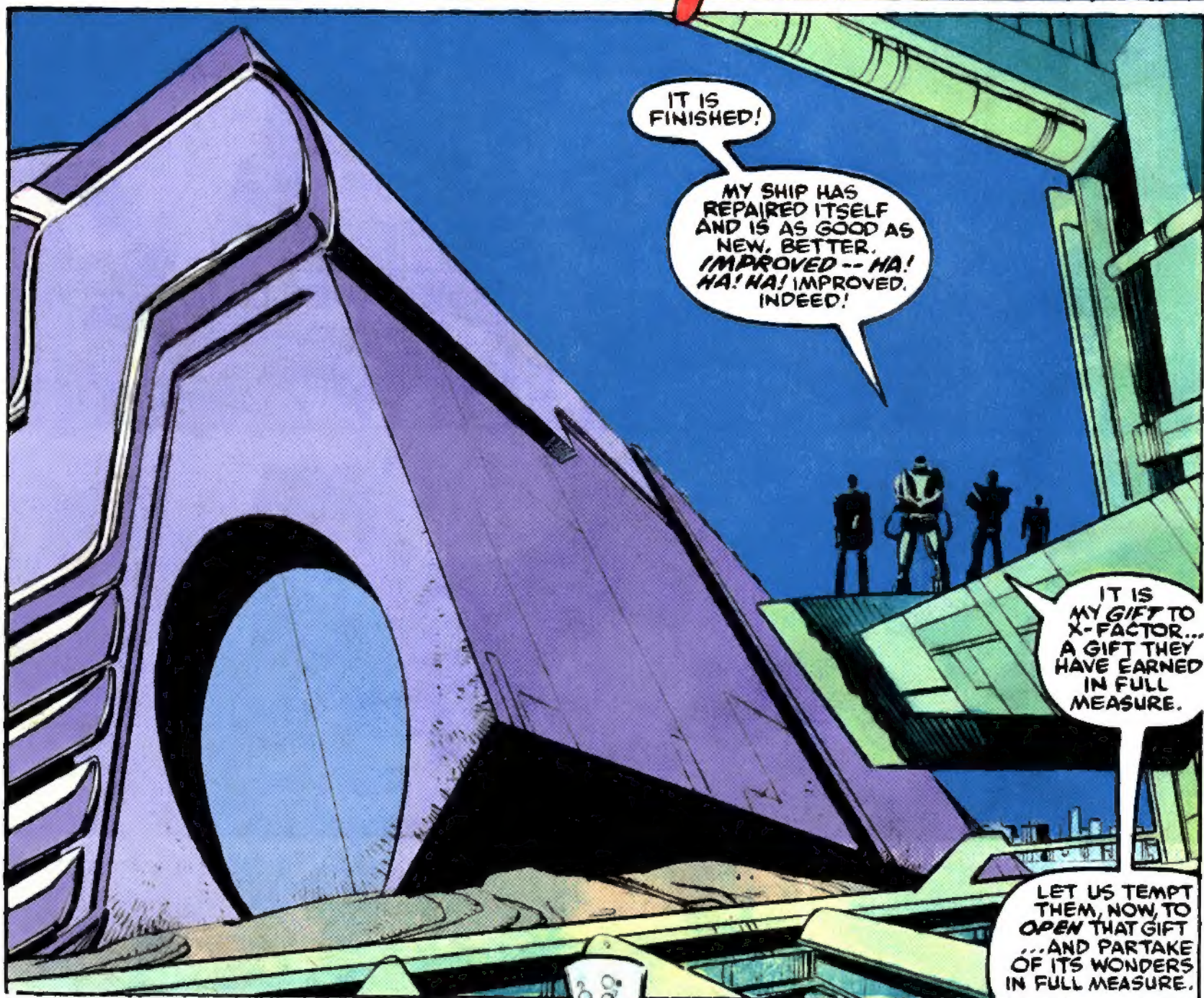
"...I'D SAY IT'S ABOUT
TIME FOR **SANTA CLAUS**
TO ARRIVE..."

WE'VE BEEN
HERE ALL DAY
AND IT'S BEEN
WONDERFUL!
JUST WHAT
CHRISTMAS
OUGHT TO BE!

HO! HO!
HO! MERRY
CHRISTMAS!
WHY... THIS
MUST BE
FOR YOU!

GOSH... A
REAL **ELF!**
I NEVER SAW
A **ELF**
BEFORE.





IT IS FINISHED!

MY SHIP HAS REPAIRED ITSELF AND IS AS GOOD AS NEW, BETTER, IMPROVED -- HA! HA! HA! IMPROVED, INDEED!

IT IS MY GIFT TO X-FACTOR... A GIFT THEY HAVE EARNED IN FULL MEASURE.

LET US TEMPT THEM, NOW, TO OPEN THAT GIFT... AND PARTAKE OF ITS WONDERS IN FULL MEASURE.

BUT BEWARE, X-FACTOR! BENEATH THE SHINY FOIL, I THINK I HEAR IT TICKING!



MERRY CHRISTMAS, X-FACTOR! IT MAY BE YOUR LAST!

NEXT ISSUE: **COUNTDOWN** --THE FRIGHTFUL SECRET OF APOCALYPSE'S SHIP! DON'T MISS IT!

X-CHANGES

BOB HARRAS: editor - BOBBIE CHASE: assistant editor

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP - 507 Park Avenue South - New York, New York - 10018
Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us.

As you may have noticed, this is our first letters page since issue #23. What with the spectacular Fall of the Mutants, our stories ran a little long. As a result, we're way behind in our mail. So, for the next few months (hopefully) we're going to try and catch up. Thus, we present without comment, your missives on issues #18 and #19...

Guys,

Totally awesome! I just finished reading X-FACTOR #18 and it was great! Not only am I thrilled that Angel will be back, and flying even, but you finally resolved the Phoenix situation with Jean and Scott! I like Jean — her beauty, her love for Scott, her strong, intelligent personality. I want to see her continue. I'd like to see her relationship with Scott develop into a marriage. What's to be done with Maddle, I'm not sure. I'd much rather see Jean's powers curtailed than to have her killed off again and go years without seeing her.

Congratulations to Louise Simonson for some very poignant writing in the dialogue between Jean and Scott. And congratulations to Walt Simonson for the wonderful art. The issue was a classic. I love, for example, the scene on page 15 where Scott and Jean are going at each other and Skids walks in and one tells her to "get" and the other says "out." Then there was the look on Scott's face as he leans over Phoenix on the butt in New Mexico and his words, "I opened my eyes and the world was someplace wonderful." He completes the words as we see Jean eavesdropping — She's hurt. A beautiful scene, really classic. Then there was the beauty of Phoenix's face as the hologram stares up at Scott from the computer on page 13, or the joy on Scott's face when he "realizes" that Jean is Phoenix on page 20. No wonder Jean says that for Scott's sake, she wishes she was Phoenix. To have Scott look at me that way, I wouldn't mind being Phoenix myself. It's issues like this that make me glad I'm still reading comics at age 36.

V.L.C.
San Bernadino CA

Dear X-Makers,

Issue #18 was just stupendous! The whole way it was put together was great! The cover was almost better than #13, and that was hard to beat! The interior art was also terrific, as always! I mean, let's face it, X-FACTOR has one heck of a staff!

But now, on to deeper and more thought-provoking subjects. I'm terribly happy to see that the Jean/Phoenix phenomenon is being straightened out! It shouldn't have taken this long for Scott to realize that Jean isn't Phoenix. Even though Scott saw a kind of "Phoenix effect" surrounding Jean in issue #6, Warren described to him how she was discovered long after Phoenix had died.

And, last but not least, what in the world is the team going to do with the villainous and incredibly heartless Cameron Hodge? Surely, before anything can be done, Hodge will make sure that the anti-mutant hysteria rises to its peak, virtually unstoppable, and

that X-FACTOR's cover is blown sky-high! I'm surprised it hasn't happened already, thanks to Hodge!

Steve Liderbach
Cleveland Heights, OH

Dear X-Cellent Ones,

X-FACTOR #18 was perhaps less busy than the previous issue, but it packed plenty of punch nonetheless! Do I see an actual resolution to the "Scott as a wimp" theme that has plagued the character since X-MEN #175? Hooray! Writers have been using the man as a dumping ground for far too long!

Now for some specifics—

I liked the title, because it was not at first clear just whom it referred to. Scott, with his own mind betraying him? Jean, with Phoenix powers, or vice versa? Or the more obvious choice, Hodge? Also, I enjoyed the way the Beast sniped at Hodge on page 2 and the characters' eventual undeniable realization that Hodge is indeed "The Enemy Within."

In conclusion, Summers has always been my favorite mutant character. Remember, this is the man who personally trounced Rogue, Colossus, Wolverine, Nightcrawler, Storm (with powers), and Kitty, given only ten minutes' preparation in X-MEN #175! Thank you for portraying him as he deserves! Now, if only the Beast could be next.

Ron Edwards
Chicago, IL

Dear Simonsons,

Thanks very much! With X-FACTOR #18, things are not only starting to make sense, but they're starting to look up, as well.

Has Cameron Hodge been behind all of Scott's hallucinations? That certainly would be a load off his mind, wouldn't it? Whether or not that's the case, Scott does seem to be on the comeback trail. Thanks also for finally clearing up the Jean/Phoenix matter — it was long overdue!

Back to Hodge. I hope the group will now recognize the folly of the "mutant hunter" cover, and come above ground to show the world that there are mutants out there who are good people — heroic, admirable, and dedicated to the preservation of all life! Bobby seems to have been imbued with a new passion and spirit along these lines, and it adds a new-found dimension to his character that has been sorely lacking in the past! This is the first time he's seemed like a real person to me. I hope that we don't lose him in the upcoming battle with Apocalypse.

Incidentally, I must add that I think the art is absolutely fantastic! The storyline was so depressing for a while that you guys almost lost me, but Walt's great art kept me hanging in there. Kudos also to Petra, one of the great talents in her field!

Anyway, I'm glad I stayed with X-FACTOR long enough to make it to this issue, which seems to me to be a turning point of the major variety! A few weeks ago, I thought that everyone was going to die, but after this issue, I think that things, though difficult, are going to be okay.

Dan Shoemaker
(Address Withheld By Request)

Dear Marvel,

The title of X-FACTOR #19 was "All Together Now" which is also the title of a Beatles song from "Yellow Submarine." After reading the story, it seemed very appropriate. No matter how troubled X-FACTOR is, it's still a team based around the principle of "all of us or none," to quote Iceman (page 8, panel 1). In contrast, the formidable Horsemen of Apocalypse are not a team, only a loose group of individuals. (Thank you, Walt and Bob, for making their masks look more like human, rather than Edward Munchian faces.) Pestilence is willing to follow War — as a former Morlock, she's used to obeying a leader — but Famine is not, and the lack of control she exhibited as Autumn Rolfson in #12 is still evident as a Horseman in #19. Reflexes and nostalgia may guide Cyclops, but he knows how important control is. He'll help Leech acquire it and he's sufficiently stable enough to realize that Hodge must go. Therein lies the problem with this issue — everyone connected with X-FACTOR, as well as a few bystanders mentions Hodge's name, but we never see him, and the attack of the Horsemen came off as a holding action. Certain things must be dealt with — the pleasure of reading X-FACTOR under Louise Simonson (and later under Louise and Walt Simonson) has been the readiness to deal with Cyclops' romantic woes, Jean's identity crisis, Warren's health (contrast this with the injured X-Men, who are in Limbo or on Muir Island) and X-FACTOR's dangerous modus operandi. Here, such things simmer under the surface, which is fine — but the main plot is not all that absorbing. Sure, it's refreshing to see non-mutants praising Iceman's speech, and the Horsemen are worthy foes. But, I'd rather have met all four at once, and then, not until after Hodge and the Right had been dealt with.

Charles J. Sperling
37-15 Parsons Blvd. #4-C
Flushing, NY 11354

Dear X-FACTOR Creators,

This comic improves with every issue. Issue #19's cover stood out from all the rest on the comics rack. It's spectacular! Apocalypse's Horsemen were more powerful than I'd imagined and the Angel — whoops, Death — is still to come. Has Bobby flipped his lid? He seems to be going over the deep-end ever since Loki apparently increased his powers. (I missed that THOR issue.) Scott used to be some character but the whole issue he kept pitying himself and worrying about killing bystanders. Scott Summers is becoming the biggest drag. Caliban finally got into the action (in full uniform) with Hank and Bobby. Although Caliban is quite a character, his chances for success as a member of X-FACTOR seem pretty slim. He was entirely useless to Hank and Bobby, and perhaps a future burden. Hank had to pull him along. One question — where did the Horsemen's steeds come from?

I thought we'd finally seen the last of Trish Tilby but, no, she shows up in a news chopper. Too bad the props didn't have a chance to freeze up totally. Get rid of her. Apocalypse looked especially threatening this issue, more so than in earlier ones. Where did Cameron Hodge slither off to? He seemed like trouble ever since the beginning. Now that he's gone, is X-FACTOR going to change its advertising tactics?

Ian Rorimain
221 Beacher Brook Ln
Cary, NC 27511

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:



"Happy Holidays, you guys!"



—THE MARVEL BULLPEN

ITEM: After a half year in the nine-to-five grind as head of our peerless Production Department, Jumbo Jim Novak (once our most popular letterer) has heard the scritch of penpoints and the bubbling of inkpots and has decided to pack up his desk and hit the freelance lettering road again. So good luck, Jim — this loss is Marvel's calligraphic gain!

ITEM: Stepping into the breach Jim left will be none other than Virtuous Virginia Romita, who is currently the Traffic Manager for the entire Marvel line. She's the one who keeps track of schedules and lets editors know when the Dreaded Deadline Doom is looming. Vee-Ay has decided not to give up her Trafficking job either — she intends to manage both Traffic and Production! (Whew! It's a big job, but she is a tough lady!)

ITEM: Wait — there's still more people exchanging hats! Erudite Adam Blaustein, assistant editor in the Special Projects department, has accepted a promotion out of the Editorial rank and file. Adam's now going to be a production man — specifically, our liaison with Chemical Color, the fine people who do the color separations for our comic books. Good luck to you in your new position, Adam!

ITEM: And, finally, taking Adam's place in our star-studded editorial line-up is Dilligent David Wohl. David's been an editorial assistant on the OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE for most of its run and also did a summer stint as Star Editor Don Daley's assistant. Dave and his comrade-in-arms, Marc Stry (who is now assisting Reliable Ralph Macchio), are proud graduates of Marvel's high school editorial intern program, and both are currently attending college after work. (Satisfied, Marc? We finally found a way to mention you on this page!)

ITEM: If we seem a bit more harried this time than usual, here's why... It's MIGHTY MARVEL MOVING MADNESS WEEK, wherein a record-breaking seven editorial teams played musical offices! First, Administrative Manager Lynn Cohen moved from the office outside Editor in Chief Tom DeFalco's designer digs to the duplex desk ten feet outside. Then, Exec Editor Mark Gruenwald moved his worldly goods into Lynn's vacated space. Next, Craig Anderson cleared out the office across the hall from Tom's so Mark's assistant editor, Gregory Wright, could take possession. Then the editorial team of Bob Harras and Bobbie Chase

packed their desks and settled into Mark's and Greg's former fortress. That left Bob and Bobbie's creative crawlspace open for Craig Anderson and David Wohl. Got all that so far? Good, 'cause we're only halfway done. Then, Michael Higgins, Mike Rockwitz, and Pat Redding gathered up their bounteous belongings, and the two Mikes moved into departing Production Manager Jim Novak's alry abode, while Pat got a sunless, but single, office to herself. That enabled Special Projects Editor Bob Budiansky and his right hand man Dwayne McDuffie to headquarter themselves in the former Mikes' and Pat's office. Then, finally, the editorial team of Ann Nocenti and Terry Kavanagh (who for the whole summer have been exiled to another floor, because we were short on suitable office space) moved into Bob and Dwayne's coveted corner office. At last, the moving's done, the dust has settled, and Marvel's mighty editorial staff is all on one floor again! Hats off to Office Manager Susie Ehrenreich (who's never been mentioned in this space before — hi, Suzie!) for coordinating the whole shebang. (Now, if we could only remember where we accidentally moved all of our artwork, we could publish a few comic books!)

PRO FILE: BOB HARRAS

Editor on: X-FACTOR, INCREDIBLE HULK, G.I. JOE, G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS, G.I. JOE DIGEST, SPELLBOUND, INHUMANS GRAPHIC NOVEL

Marvel freelance credits (past): Issues of IRON MAN, THOR, AVENGERS, THING and ROBOCOP movie adaptation

Marvel freelance credits (present): The upcoming S.H.I.E.L.D. Limited Series

My hobbies are: Spelunking, hang-gliding, diving off the cliffs of Acapulco, mountain-climbing in the Himalayas and (according to Joanne Spaldo) breaking hearts.

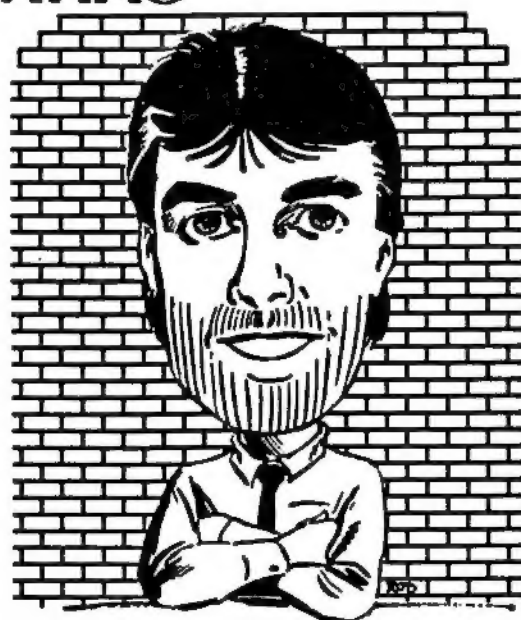
The single work which I am most proud of is: THOR #356 and a parody of ROM I wrote and drew in ROM #50.

My pet peeves are: Munchkins, especially those who belong to the Lollipop Guild.

My place of birth is: Queens, New York

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Developing an extensive collection of knitted ties (which is the envy of Archie Goodwin) and the uncanny ability to lie with the best of them.

My oddest habit is: Sitting in such strange positions that people wonder if I have a spine.



If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Al Pacino.

The reason I got into comics was: I didn't want to grow up (and I've succeeded — ask anyone who knows me).

People who knew me in High School thought I was: Sardonic.

My favorite performers are: Bruce Springsteen and Mark Gruenwald (whose portrayal of Mr. Mature in episode #7 of "Cheap Lafts" is incomparable).

The last good book I read was: WAITING FOR CHILDHOOD by Sumner Locke Elliott

The last good movie I saw was: FATAL ATTRACTION

The biggest influences on my work include: Ralph Macchio, Jim and Tammy Bakker, the other Ralph Macchio, Joe Biden, Jane Austen, Donald Trump and, of course, the obligatory William Shakespeare.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To get my freelance work in on time.

The worst part of my job is: Listening to Chris Claremont read his fan mail out loud (and I'm not even his editor!)

When nobody's looking I like to: Look at myself.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I never wear bow ties (despite what Ralph Macchio says).

Checklist

- ☐ DAREDEVIL #253
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #373
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #31
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #10
- ☐ STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #17
- ☐ SPELLBOUND Limited Series #6
- ☐ TALES OF G.I. JOE #4
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #340
- ☐ SOLO AVENGERS #5
- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #299
- ☐ STRANGE TALES #13
- ☐ GROO THE WANDERER #38
- ☐ THE NEW MUTANTS #62
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #57
- ☐ POWER PACK #36
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #290

- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #342
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #210
- ☐ SILVER SURFER #10
- ☐ THE UNCANNY X-MEN #228
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #205
- ☐ G.I. JOE #70
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #313
- ☐ IRON MAN #229
- ☐ THE 'NAM #17
- ☐ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #137
- ☐ THOR #390
- ☐ X-FACTOR #27
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #20
- ☐ THE TRANSFORMERS #39

MARVEL BOOKSHELF
☐ EXCALIBUR #1 — They're Marvel's newest and most amazing mutant team yet! Written by Chris

- Claremont, penciled by Alan Davis, and inked by Paul Neary.
- ☐ THE PITT — The future of the New Universe is changed forever! Written by John Byrne and Mark Gruenwald and drawn by Sal Buscema and Stan Drake.
- ☐ ELEKTRA Trade Paperback — The Epic Limited Series re-presented in one volume! Written by Frank Miller and painted by Bill Sienkiewicz.
- ☐ IRON MAN Graphic Novel — Story, computer-generated art and color by Mike Saenz.
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #5

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #146
- ☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #61
- ☐ CONAN SAGA #11
- ☐ G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #9



*CLOSE
ENOUGH...*

**SYL3NT BOB
MINUTEMEN**